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Carter and Europe take the plunge

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Talk of uncertainty and unrest in the world at large need not necessarily mean foreign policy tension or another lap in the arms race.

In most cases it refers to economic and monetary matters, the sector, much more so than in the past, in which dramatic decisions are taken.

In recent years the international economic crisis has worried governments and consumers everywhere.

The alarm on money markets of the past months has led pundits to fear further economic setbacks.

The public has also had an uneasy feeling that all is not well on currency markets and with all that is tied to them.

This is the background against which two extraordinarily far-reaching decisions, one by President Carter, the other by Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing, must be seen.

The US government has finally decided it means business in its efforts to prevent a further decline in the dollar, choosing moves previously thought unnecessary.

After long hesitation, Mr Carter has realised that a long-term eclipse of the dollar on world currency markets cannot fail to have repercussions on both the US economy and world trade, much of which is conducted in dollars.

On the other side of the Atlantic, Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing agreed that the proposed European Monetary System was definitely to be launched in the New Year.

After Herr Schmidt's talks in Siena and Paris there can no longer be any doubt that a system of fixed exchange rates among EMS countries will be in operation on time.

The two moves, dollar stabilisation and the EMS, may be seen in terms of a common denominator. Both are aimed at restoring peace and quiet to the international monetary scene.

They are also designed to lay a sounder groundwork for world trade and the international economy as a whole.

A further link between the two is that Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard d'Estaing drew up the plans for their European Monetary System at a time when the dollar was in the doldrums.

Were the dollar to make a lasting recovery, there would, of course, be no reason for scrapping the European plan.

Carter, Schmidt and Giscard well realise that monetary decisions are not just technicalities. They extend far into the political sphere; they are politics in the narrowest sense of the term.

President Carter must have come to realise the incongruity of America's international reputation as a world power and a steadily declining dollar.

As for the EMS, political considerations have pushed economic ones into the background, as Herr Schmidt has said in the plainest terms possible.

Greater monetary stability entails risks too, of course. Part of the US package is a hard line on inflation, and high interest rates could easily swing the United States into a recession.

This is turn would have repercussions on the international economy as a whole, but President Carter has decided to run the risk.

The risks the EMS entails are even greater and more complex. What concessions can Bonn afford to make without substantially increasing the risk of domestic inflation?

There is, of course, a limit beyond which the Chancellor could not even go if he wanted, given the statutory powers of the Bundesbank. But are responsibilities clearly demarcated?

Then there is the risk of two classes emerging in Europe: one consisting of countries taking part from the start, the other of countries either unable or unwilling to do so.

In this respect, Herr Schmidt scored a major victory in Italy, where Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said his country would definitely be in the EMS from the start.

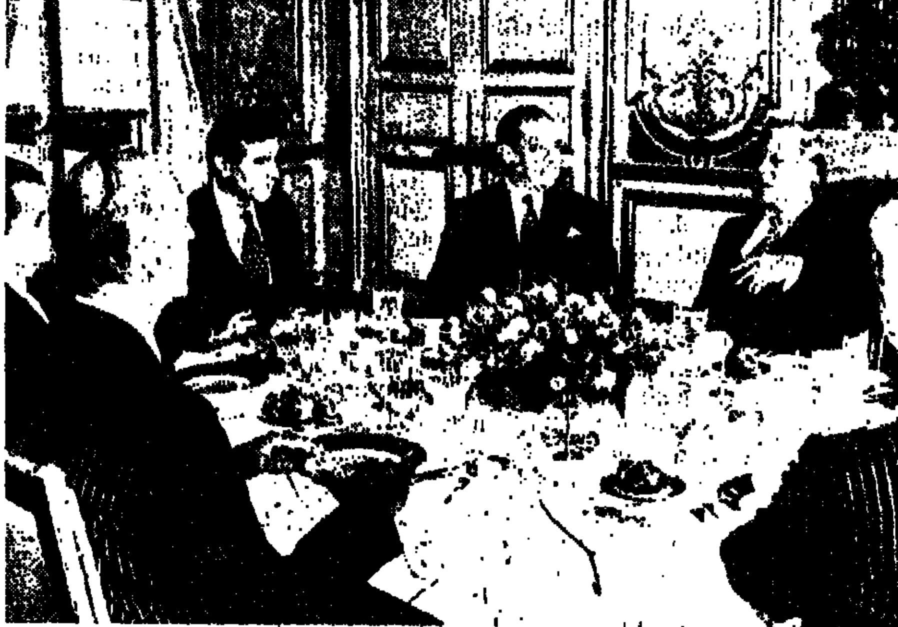
So the European Monetary System will at least start with all six members of the original EEC in membership.

Sooner or later it may, of course, come unstuck. This would be a blow to the prestige of Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard d'Estaing. It would also be a setback for Europe.

The European Community would find it extremely difficult to recover from such a reverse.

Yet the French and German leaders are going ahead regardless, and they can

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Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (right) and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing (left front) settle down to a working lunch at the Elysee Palace to discuss the European currency system. Other guests are (from left) Bernard Clappier, president of the Bank of France, Jürgen Ruhfus, a member of the German delegation, and Prime Minister Raymond Barre of France. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

Genscher sums up Polish relations

Many problems have been overcome in the seven years since Bonn and Warsaw came to terms, but difficulties still lie ahead.

They are no longer major problems, such as the border, repatriation of ethnic Germans, and the breakthrough from the past to the realities of the present.

In terms of these the issues Bonn and Warsaw have yet to solve are individual matters of a lesser magnitude.

But they still need solving if the joint objective of further understanding is to be kept in sight.

Foreign Minister Genscher, who visited Warsaw early this month for talks with Polish Foreign Minister Wojtaszek, listed the state of ties between the two countries.

In doing so he did well to recall how little time has elapsed since the Warsaw Treaty of December 1970 and later accords signed in 1975.

Bonn is impatient, Warsaw sensitive, and the result is that both will tend to deny or rate as incomplete the fresh start, depending on their respective interests.

Germans who realise what losses the German people sustained on Hitler's account will continue to remember Wroclaw as Breslau and Gdansk as Danzig.

Polish officials will continue to have to supply duplicates of birth certificates and the like issued before 1945 with place names in German. History cannot be antedated.

Other ambiguities to which the Polish Foreign Minister referred are the result of West German domestic complications.

Ethnic Germans who opt for a fresh start in West Germany are still issued with refugee papers, even though nearly 90,000 have come from Poland of their own choice in the three years since the 1975 agreement.

The Poles wonder why Christian Democrat-governed Länder, with their majority in the Bundesrat, or upper house of the Bonn parliament, object to a fresh name for these ID cards.

Is it just an argument over formalities or is there a deeper political significance?

Hans-Dietrich Genscher is nonetheless right to review the recent past. Five years or so ago not even a Lufthansa plane would have been allowed to land in Warsaw. Herr Genscher arrived on board a Luftwaffe jet, as Willy Brandt did before him.

Consultations at government level are, perhaps, less important than people meeting each other. More than 300,000 people from West Germany visit Poland yearly and 150,000 Poles visit the Federal Republic.

Roughly two-and-a-half million people from the GDR cross the Oder-Neisse line every year, a boundary once laden with symbolism.

Possibly the most striking return to normal is that Foreign Ministers from Bonn and Warsaw can now meet for routine consultations on, say, Africa and the Middle East as seen from Central Europe.

Poles and Germans are, after all, neighbours in Europe, and what goes on in the would around them concerns them both.

Herbert Straeten

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 4 November 1978)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Genscher's tough stand on Unesco declaration

Bonn rejects the controversial Unesco declaration on the media, Foreign Minister Hans-Dierich Genscher has told the UN organisation's general assembly in Paris.

He left delegates in no doubt of his government's point of view: press freedom must be maintained.

Unesco would be in breach of its statutes were it to endorse the resolution on government supervision and regimentation of information as submitted by its director-general.

There was too little press freedom in the world, not too much, Herr Genscher said, raising the spectre of government manipulation of news and comment.

He called on Unesco members to agree on a joint draft. A declaration adopted despite opposition from a number of countries would jeopardise cooperation in a fundamental sector of Unesco operations.

"So we must either reach a consensus or dispense with the delcaration," he said.

Western countries feel the draft is unacceptable because it imposes restrictions on freedom of reporting and opens the way for government censorship.

In a speech on all aspects of Unesco's work, Herr Genscher outlined the Bonn government's views on the media.

The flow of information must not be a one-way traffic and the world must not be divided into suppliers and consumers of information.

Efficient news agencies and other media needed building up in the developing world to increase its ability to play a part in the international exchange of information, Herr Genscher said.

Reciprocity was not sufficiently ensured either between East and West or between North and South. The problem in East-West ties was that there were governments which seriously restricted the free flow of information and public access to it.

He recalled the Helsinki accords and said Bonn would continue to insist on all signatories practising free dissemination of information.

"There is no wall that can keep out the truth.".

In North-South ties the main problem was to establish efficient communications systems in the Third World. Bonn intended to step up aid to the developing countries for this.

The chief task facing our generation Herr Genscher said, was to reduce the gap between rich and poor countries.

It was tempting to thing primarily of the economic disparity, but the principal cause of the prosperity gap was the difference in education, expertise and technological potential.

Herr Genscher warned the industrialised countries not to lay themselves open to charges of technological colonialism. Bonn's aim, he said, was a world in which countries could decide for themselves their political, economic and cultural objectives.

He criticised human rights violations, saying those who breached human dignity were the true reactionaries of the age.

Education to peace was the Federal Republic of Germany's target. Anyone who fostered hatred of people holding views other than his own, or brought up young people to espouse hatred was sowing the seeds of warfare.

Herr Genscher said he welcomed the Unesco declaration on racial discrimination, but warned delegates not to overload it with issues not pertinent to the subject.

He also dealt with the proposed charter on physical education and sport, saying sport should remain free of government regimentation.

The aim must be to consolidate international sporting cooperation, foster sporting ties and help sportsmen from the Third World.

Western observers noted that statements by Third World delegates shifted emphasis on support for the controversial media declaration.

So far only Iraq, Libya, Cuba and Zambia have backed the draft fully. Nigeria, Tunisia and Indonesia did not support it explicitly but called for an improvement in media facilities in the Third World.

The delegates from Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Bahrain and Afghanistan did not mention the draft in speeches to the general assembly.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Zemskov accused the Western press of "information imperialism." Western attacks on the Unesco media draft were gross misinterpretations, he said.

The declaration gave African, Asian and Latin American countries protection from information imperialism. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 October 1978)

Taking plunge

Continued from page 1

only be doing so for serious political reasons.

They are evidently both worried that the EEC mights tend to disintegrate unless a common monetary system is set up to provide a new magnetic field to foster cohesion among the Nine.

Helmut Schmidt is particularly sensitive on this score, given his country's position among the other eight. It is probably his most deep-seated motive.

He is used to singing the praises of Bonn's economic stability programme and exemplary economic performance. But he is also keenly aware of the misgivings felt by Germany's neighbours about a politically stable, economically powerful and militarily mighty West Germany.

Herr Schmidt feels the best way to come to terms within Europe is for Bonn to forgo another piece of sovereignty and integrate even more closely with its neighbours.

En route to a European Monetary System Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard d'Estaing have almost reached the point of no return.

One can but encourage them to keep up the good work. They may be running risks, but risks only they can take, and take them they must.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 November 1978)

Awacs system vital says Allies chief

The Awacs debate has created the impression that the system, once adopted by Nato, will merely increase the early warning margin, says General Schulze, Commander in Chief of Allied Forces, Central Europe.

Speaking in Neustadt on the Weinstrasse, General Schulze said the Allied Warning and Control System would also make possible coordinated deployment of Allied air forces.

"We need an air-supported early warning and control system for air defence. Successful air defence depends on airborne radar control systems," he said.

Only airborne systems could spot low-flying targets well behind enemy lines and give air defence command target information in good time.

General Schulze also commented on the Bonn Cabinet's decision to ask the Bundestag to approve the purchase of Awacs as essential for Nato defence.

"When this function of Awacs, the maintenance and heightening of air defence efficiency, is borne in mind, cost considerations are seen in a different light," he said.

He favoured Awacs because with its aid he could perform his task of defending Central Europe as near the front line as possible.

It was no longer entirely true to say that only land forces could hold territory. A swift response by the air force was particularly important in the initial stage, especially in view of its fire power and mobility.

Defence meant concentrating fire power fast, and since Nato was an alliance for defence only, mobility in the air and anti-tank capacity on the ground needed to be combined.

"Allied forces, with close cooperation between land and air forces, can accomplish the task of forward defence successfully."

General Schulze said this year's Nato autumn manoeuvres were, as in the past, aimed mainly at ensuring close cooperation between land and air forces.

Autumn Forge also had policy connotations. Several years ago General Haig had drawn up his reinforcement plan, which was not only a means of reinforcing combat strength but, primarily, an instrument in crisis management.

America's long-term aim was to be able to double its troops strength in Europe within a fortnight. The strength of the US tactical air force was to be trebled within a week.

This was the context in which the combination of several manoeuvres had to be viewed.

General Schulze said Nato's task was to act as a deterrent. Military strength must be shown in the West to counter the Warsaw Pact's growing military potential.

Soviet land forces had been increased, a fleet of combat helicopters built up and 20,000 Soviet tanks lined up in Central Europe.

The West was bound to respond with military vigilance, given the one-sided potential for threat and attack amassed on the other side.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult to neutralise this potential by conventional means, which is one of the reasons why Nato military men, and not only they, have noted the importance of the neutron bomb," he said.

It was almost impossible to talk in terms of a balance of power any longer, especially in the intermediate sector covered by neither the Salt talks nor the MBFR troop cut talks in Vienna.

The SS 20, Russia's mobile medium-range missile, had a destruction potential 2,000 times that of the neutron shell, General Schulze said.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 November 1978)

(Cartoon: Felix Mussil/Frankfurter Rundschau)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

New talks on war crimes statute of limitations

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Bonn coalition recently started discussions on the question of a statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes.

As the law now stands, people who committed crimes before 1945 who were not then prosecuted because the state tolerated or even condoned them, can only be tried up to the end of 1979.

This only applies where the prosecuting authorities have had no opportunity to start proceedings before the deadline.

The statute of limitations is now 30 years. Previously in this country it was 20 years in cases of murder. In 1965, when the statute of limitations on murders by the Nazis would have come into effect, a law was passed in which the beginning of this 20-year period was changed to 1949, the year in which the Federal Republic of Germany was founded.

In 1969 the Bundestag decided to prolong this by ten years. The statute of limitations on murders by Nazis will therefore apply from the beginning of 1980.

The Federal Constitutional Court was asked to rule on whether the statute of limitations could be postponed for crimes committed before the decision to prolong, and ruled that it could.

There is no dispute that once a crime falls under the statute of limitations, it can no longer be tried. Parliament has to decide what to do about Nazi crimes which will fall under the statute by the end of 1979.

So far there have been few public statements by political bodies on the issue, apart from the Association of Democratic Lawyers speaking out against the statute of limitations applying to Nazi crimes, and a number of politicians putting their own points of view.

CDU leader Helmut Kohl opposed a further prolongation of the period in which these crimes could be tried, as did SPD MP Penner. A dispute between Bonn Minister of Justice Vogel and CSU leader Strauss led in the wrong direction: there was talk here of an "amnesty," which no-one had seriously considered for Nazi crimes.

Vogel is believed to have argued within the SPD-FDP coalition that the statute of limitations should not apply to murder at all. The fact that genocide does not fall under the statute of limitations even under present law is not relevant to the prosection of Nazi crimes, as this crime only went on to the statute books in 1955 and has no retrospective effect.

The discussion now revolves around the idea of having no statute of limitations for war crimes or crimes against humanity. The Young Democrats have tabled a resolution for the FDP annual conference in mid-November calling for no time limit on the prosecution of crimes against humanity.

Legal experts object here that to legislate against new crimes — up to now Nazi crimes have been tried under normal law — would not help because they could not be tried retrospectively and besides many of the proposed formulations are vague.

Many crimes committed during the Nazi period, from those in the Röhm affair in 1934 to the killing of mental defectives, cannot be described as war crimes. There have also been strong objections to the concept of crimes against humanity, which was part of Allied Law *(Besatzungsrecht)* in the immediate post-war years, because it is too vague.

It is not even clear whether crimes against humanity could not be identical with genocide, an offence already on the statute books of the Federal Republic of Germany.

No further prolongation of the deadline for a fixed period is being seriously considered. The general view is that there is something undignified about these bit-by-bit extensions. This is why the abolition of the statute of limitations for murder is being considered.

There seems to be agreement within the coalition at the moment that the government will not introduce a draft law to this effect. This is understandable in view of the fact that the FDP rejected the two previous prolongations on constitutional grounds, which still seems to be the view of the majority of the FDP and that of Minister of the Interior Baum.

Within the SPD, there are strong forces which support the abolition of the statute of limitations in the case of murder. They are unconvinced by the argument that one cannot very well relativise life sentences and give up belief in the possibility of resocialisation by insisting that criminals should be liable to be prosecuted for murder throughout their lifetimes.

A draft law on the abolition of the statute of limitations for murder would probably be introduced by the SPD and put to a free vote. It is conceivable that this law could be passed, thanks to the vast majority of the SPD, a few FDP and some CDU votes. In 1969 there was a mixed majority: the entire FDP, 90 CDU MPs and two SPD MPs voted against the prolongation.

One of the arguments for abolishing the statute on murder is foreign opinion. The counter-argument is that trials of Nazis which drag on because of difficulties in finding evidence, and in which the accused are released from prison on grounds of ill health or advanced age or only given minimal sentences do not exactly impress foreign opinion.

Minister of the Interior Baum said that often Nazi criminals sentenced by British or American courts, and therefore not liable to be punished again, appeared as witnesses against others whose crimes were no greater.

From 1945 to 1964, 9.9 per cent of all aleged Nazi criminals were found guilty. From 1965 to 1976 the figure was only 1.5 per cent. Up to 1 January of this year, 85,000 people had been tried for murders committed during the Nazi period, of which 6,500 have been sentenced. Trials are still going on against 3,800 people.

These trials can be continued beyond the end of 1979 because they started within the 30-year period. The figures were provided by the government in answer to a question by CDU MP Mertes.

It is considered possible that in the GDR, for instance, material is still being held back which could incriminate people at present not known by name. The prosecuting authorities have therefore tried to start proceedings so that these cases will not be affected by the statute of limitations.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 October 1978)

Extremists: how to apply the lessons

Only six years have passed since former Chancellor Willy Brandt and the Prime Ministers of the Länder decided on uniform application of the Civil Service Act.

It is worth recalling that at the time the Extremists Decree had the clear support of the parties. It sprang from the political intention to eliminate extremist parties such as the NPD or the German Communist Party, not by banning them but by means of a convincing political solution.

There was reluctance to impose an official ban, but at the same time the state wanted to protect itself against infiltration of the public service by candidates hostile to the constitution. The Extremists Decree was to be the means.

Has the Extremists Decree been such a failure? It is true that this measure has kept enemies of the state out of the public service, but no-one today will say that the decree has been a success.

Indignation against it grew stronger, resistance increased. The practices of investigation suffered from the gigantic disproportion between enormous expense and puny results. Some Länder made changes and the uniformity of application crumbled.

Today the Extremists Decree is practically dead and the Federal Republic of Germany is resounding with discussion about what should take its place.

Even in the present heated debate it should not be forgotten that none of our democratic parties wishes to see a "snooping state," nor do they want to see left- or right-wing extremists working as teachers or in senior civil service positions. None of the parties has a recipe for defending the state with legally and politically acceptable means against civil servants hostile to the state. The unhappy history of the Extremists Decree is proof of the difficulties a liberal state can have in finding ways of keeping out extremists without causing offence.

There are signs that the Bonn government and the Länder want to find a new, improved, common solution. If there is no way of achieving clear majority within the three parties on how to deal with extremists in the public service, then democracy has lost a battle.

Suspicions and assertions would sprout even more luxuriantly than before. Different interpretations of the constitution would lead to different and unfair treatment: should what is forbidden in Lower Saxony be permitted in Bremen? Should a teacher rejected in Schleswig-Holstein be able to get a job in Hamburg?

By their exaggerations the parties hve given the Extremists Decree an importance it really does not have. It is not as if entire cohorts of enemies of the state are standing at the door demanding to be let in. There are no thousands of applicants on whom a so-called *Berufsverbot* has been imposed.

The fact is that in two-and-a-half years only 330 of 500,000 applicants investigated have been rejected — only 0.07 per cent. The way in which the Extremists Decree has been applied is not suspect in terms of extent and result. It only affects a small number of the total of young people, namely those who wish to enter the public service. And of these only a minute number are barred as as a result of the decree. The routine enquiry at the Office for the Protection of the Contitution draws a blank in over 90 per cent of cases.

The bitterness and indignation is caused by the methods of vetting and the evaluation of material. There is rebellion against the criteria for employment in the public service. Yet it must continue to be recognised that no state can work without demanding loyalty to the constitution from its teachers, judges, policemen and soldiers.

What does this mean specifically and how is one to determine it? One has to understand the rage of many young people. They object to the Extremists Decree because it seems too thorough and formal and offends their sense of justice.

If we ignore the professional revolutionaries and the obvious right- or left-wing extremists, there are still large numbers of doubters and opponents of the decree.

There are young people who call themselves Communists and still consider themselves democrats. They dream of "democratic Communism." It is no good pointing to the tyrannical history of Communism, this does not change their point of view. Does one have to be worried about the survival of the state simply because of these young utopians and idealists?

In the universities, there is a new form of cringing conformity which has partly been caused by the Extremists Decree. Many do not dare uttering a syllable about politics for fear of not getting a public service post later. And it can be asked if conformists, apolitical types and those who only want a quiet life are the best civil servants. The Weimar Republic had an army of civil servants who had all sworn their loyalty to the state. But when it came to the crunch, it turned out that they were civil servants only and not the democrats they had sworn to be.

The doubts of many critical young people can only be appeased by introducing a more decisive but more liberal system of employment for the public service. In Lower Saxony there is little dispute about the Extremists Decree. There is little controversy because it is applied sensibly.

There is no investigation for posts in

Continued on page 4

■ ISSUES

The German past: time to end the historical vacuum

Erwin Wilkens, vice-chairman of the German Protestant Church's chancellery, writes about the need to understand the German past.

The generation that produced and experienced the Third Reich still stands accused of withholding, first from its children and now from its grandchildren, the facts that led to the Nazi takeover.

It has also steadfastly refused to admit that it was even partly to blame for this dark age in German history.

That is why there is such a wide generation gap, why natural authority is on the verge of extinction and why, for lack of intellectual and ethical orientation, such a vacuum has arisen.

As a result many young people have turned to ahistoric views of society and extremism of some kind.

I have never been altogether sure whether our parents and grandparents deliberately avoided the issue. There seem to me to be more deep-seated reasons why such a poor job has been made of coming to terms politically, intellectually and religiously with the Third Reich.

Investigation of the Nazi era needs to be set aside from interpretation for political purposes and probed according to the strict and exacting yardsticks of historical research.

I

The study of history as an intellectual endeavour to understand the past must describe what happened, explain circumstances, and try to uncover the reasons that prompted decisions and actions or failures to act.

Understanding the past is not an aim in itself, however; it must help us to understand the present and try to give some guide to the future.

This is a task no-one can accomplish without personal intellectual groundwork, so there can be no such thing as a uniform and universal view of history.

History as a part of human understanding thus necessitates dialogue and reconciliation. Ideologically entrenched fronts are its worst enemy.

There are other factors too, of course: Subsequent knowledge must be incorporated in historical research, but there must be no question of moralising hindsight or condemnation of an entire nation.

The irrational in history must also be borne in mind. It includes the depth of human evil, man's proneness to sheer barbarity.

What is more, history can never be fully interpreted in terms of cause and effect. There will always be an element of the inexplicable remaining.

There are, for that matter, missed opportunities that take a heavy toll and appear to make the subsequent course of events seem obvious.

History as experienced by nations also includes the dreadful feeling of impotence as though a people were faced by some dire natural catastrophe.

It follows that the history of the Third Reich must not been written in terms of an apology, although a number of distortions require that the record be set right.

It must not content itself with moralising either, although guilt and responsibility still need to be determined and clearly apportioned.

Rationalisation is likewise not the answer although the scientific study of cause and effect is indispensable.

The stage now reached is that of taking a more objective look at the Third Reich. To dismiss this new look as a Hitler Wave is to misunderstand the service writers of history have yet to perform.

II

We have no option but to talk in terms of the Third Reich as a disaster in which an entire nation was entangled. The Nazi leaders were, after all, past masters at ambiguity, deception, seduction and abuse of patriotic sentiment.

This still leaves the question of what active part individual contemporaries played.

Millions were murdered and killed during the war, the political legacy of which has not, by any stretch of the imagination, been digested.

The extent to which the generation of the day shared guilt and responsibility is still an extremely pertinent question.

There can be no question of the individual claiming to have been an involuntary tool of an inescapable destiny. This is no excuse.

Each one of us is partly responsible for what goes on in the society in which we live. But the guilty must be sought at a different level.

The German people were not a nation of murderers, and the collective guilt theory can achieve little more than prompt a counter-theory of collective innocence.

There is, it has been said, only a difference of degree between a soldier on active service at the front and a concentration camp guard engaged in systematic genocide.

This claim, which virtually makes an entire people out to be criminals, must surely be the pinnacle of inanity.

Guilt will nonetheless always remain the guilt of the individual within the scope of his own life, as philosopher Karl Jaspers pointed out shortly after the war.

In the final analysis, he said, everyone shares responsibility for all the injustice in the world, but especially for crimes committed in his presence, or to his knowledge, which he did not do all he could to prevent.

Who can fairly accuse others of not having risked life and limb? This is something of which everyone is guilty at some time or other, something that leaves a lasting pang of conscience.

Can there be anyone who lived through the Third Reich and can deny repeatedly having been in situations in which he failed to do what he well realised at the time that he ought to do?

The disclosures that led to the resignation of Baden-Württemberg Premier Hans Filbinger were an individual instance of the disastrous Third Reich and the knot of guilt and destiny in which it tied all concerned.

What the Filbinger affair ought to have revealed is that people with any claim to moral conduct were obliged to take a risk-fraught tightrope walk to avoid both martyrdom and betrayal of their own ideals.

To a certain extent circumstances had to be accepted as they were — yet an attempt made to maintain ethical integrity.

Life is simultaneously or in swift succession a complex and intricate pattern of events at different levels, with views continually clashing.

What, then, about the guilt to which members of the Third Reich generation are expected to admit? As on previous occasions, the Filbinger affair failed to supply a clear answer in public debate.

As early as 1945 Karl Jaspers drew a distinction between criminal, political, moral and metaphysical guilt.

Hans Asmussen later added a few words in explanation of the 19 October 1945 Stuttgart declaration by the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany.

The call for an admission of guilt, he said, is always a kind of blackmail unless this distinction is drawn. The various levels of guilt cannot be equated. In Herr Filbinger's case, the playwright Rolf Hochhuth accused the premier of criminal guilt, which was tantamount to breaking the bounds of serious debate.

Others felt Herr Filbinger was politically and morally guilty, the two often being closely related.

Many people certainly seemed to expect the Baden-Württemberg CDU leader to make an admission of guilt, and to do so with an undertone of selfrighteousness.

It is surprising how quickly people will self-righteously clamour for a scapegoat unless the guilty stand their ground.

This leaves what Jaspers calls metaphysical guilt, the level of individual conscience which for a Christian mainly entails coming to terms with one's God.

There undoubtedly are situations in which guilt in this sense should be admitted in public. The admission of guilt is a plea for forgiveness, both human and divine.

This admission will tend to establish a new solidarity and lay the groundwork for a fresh start. Is there a place for it in present-day political and social reality?

The Filbinger affair certainly failed to come up with an answer, sad to say.

III

A further opportunity to reflect on specific guilt and destiny in the Third Reich is the fortieth anniversary of the 9-10 November 1938 pogrom known as the *Kristallnacht*.

It heralded the "final solution" to the Jewish problem, the perfectly organised massacre of millions of people that was one of the most terrible events in history.

What made it all the more hair-raising was that it was the result of total nihilism and utterly pointless.

Millions of people were murdered by a spectre, says Munich historian Golo Mann, son of novelist Thomas Mann and grandson of a Jew, whose credentials are thus impeccable.

It was, he says, the spectre of anti-Semitism, a strange will-o'the-wisp that can never exactly be pinpointed when an attempt to identify it is made.

The overwhelming majority of the German people were never passionately anti-Semitic, certainly no more so than other nations, Mann says.

"I cannot help suspecting that the massacre of the Jews was undertaken from Germany and by Germans because the powers that be in Germany ordered it and not because hatred of the Jews had ever been particularly intense in Germany."

The age-old phenomenon of anti-Semitism, popular though it may have been, only indirectly had anything much to do with the catastrophe that befell European Jewry.

It was a crime perpetrated and always to be associated with Germany, but must be dealt with in greater detail. If the responsibility of contemporaries is to be outlined accurately and its current significance explained.

History shows that the Nazis did not come to power on a wave of anti-Semitism. Before 1933 most Germans probably paid it too little attention rather than too much. It was certainly not a major fact of life as seen by Germans.

It is, of course, all the more appalling that Hitler succeeded immediately after assuming power in generating a gut reaction among the German people which led to the human, social and political exclusion of the Jews without as much as a whimper worthy of the name.

If individual Germans of the day are to be accused of guilt, then it must lie in their failure as a people during the Third Reich to show the Jews in their midst humanity and charity.

When the pogrom was orchestrated in November 1938, there were signs of displeasure and objection, but they were too little too late.

Protest at that stage was ridden over roughshod by a fully-fledged dictatorship which professed the extermination of the Jews as one of its fundamental principles.

The German people as a whole has never indentified itself with crimes committed during the Third Reich, but deep rifts have come to light on basic issues of human coexistence and political consciousness.

Both are of immediate relevance, so it is not enough to consider the issues involved solely in terms of the past.

The subsequent generation has good reason to stop being self-righteous and start thinking in time about present-day aberrations.

Erwin Wilkens

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 5 November 1978)

Continued from page 3

the middle and lower-level service. For posts in the higher service, including teaching posts, what happened before the age of 18 or three years before the candidate's application is considered irrelevant.

Only if there are grounds for believing a candidate to be politically suspect does the investigative committee meet. A rejected candidate can appeal to the administrative court against the committee's ruling. Membership of a certain party is not in itself sufficient grounds for acceptance or rejection.

This system works. Since 1972 there have been 62,000 applicants and only 500 cases in which the investigative committee met. Only 94 applicants — 0.15 per cent — were turned down.

The Lower Saxony model is so similar to the proposals worked out by Bremen's mayor Koschnick that a compromise must be possible. If this fails, more will be desroyed than an ugly but necessary decree.

Bernd Nellessen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 October 1978)



■ EMPLOYMENT

What it's really like to be your own boss



The self-employed are an integral part of the economic system, but how free and independent are they really? This was one of the questions a recent study of the middle class self-employed by a Munich-based insurance employed set out to answer.

Every second self-employed person considers himself disadavantaged by the present economic system. And yet 70 per cent of the middle-class self-employed would change nothing if faced with the same decision again; 48 per cent would advise their children to be self-employed.

These unexpectedly positive results, plus the fact that the number of self-employed rose again in 1977, refute the cries this important segment of the West German economy is declining.

But 48 per cent of those interviewed think that the economic system imposes undue hardship on them; 38 per cent hold that their public reputation has deteriorated; 72 per cent feel their interests are inadequately safeguarded in the Bundestag.

These findings come from a study of the middle-class self-employed carried out in the summer of 1978 on behalf of the Thuringia Insurance Company of Munich to mark its 125th anniversary.

Intermarket Institute, Düsseldorf, which carried out the study, was assisted by the Cologne sociologist Erwin K. Scheuch.

Interviews were conducted with manufacturers, professional poeple, farmers, tradesmen, merchants and those in the catering business — a total of 500 people in ten occupational groups, 75 per cent of them the sole owners of their businesses.

The study sheds light on the fact that the great differences between self-employed people comes close to making the criterion of independence questionable.

For instance, the lamented drop in the number of self-employed in the past 20 years is primarily due to the shrinking of agriculture. This also applies to sociological and social differences: while the majority of retailers and tradesmen belong to the middle class, the freelancers and academics are mostly part of the upper class. Income differences are also considerable.

But the study also distinguishes — and this should give new depth to public discussion — between founders who became entrepreneurs and those who look over businesses as inheritance or by purchase.

The results show that those who took over businesses have a less pronounced desire to be entrepreneurs than other groups. They frequently take over a business, a farm or a medical or legal practice involuntarily: "My father wanted it that way, and the business was supposed to remain in the family. Besides, I havn't learned any other profession ..."

They are not only more frequently plagued by problems in selling, economic risks and restricted scope of acitivity, but they also enjoy their entrepreneurship less and are more likely to quit under certain circumstances.

Apart from those who took over businesses, the Thuringia study lists a second critical category: middle class self-employed with a staff of between 10 and 20. They have the most worries and the least leisure. More than others, they consider themselves disadvantaged in relation to other social groups, not least due to social legislation. But they are more willing than others to run for public office and take an active part in improving their position.

One of the remarkable findings of this study is that every fifth self-employed person (19 per cent) would be prepared to run for public office — a number which would suffice to represent the interests of medium-sized businesses (2.4 million) in West Germany.

Almost as many (18 per cent) consider themselves displaced from their social position, primarily by trade union officials (34 per cent), civil servants (28 per cent) and association officials (14 per cent).

Such active participation in public life — three-quarters of those questioned are members of an association or work in public institutions — seems the more remarkable considering that half of the self-employed work more than 61 hours a week.

For most self-employed work exceeds the legal maximum of 48 hours and far surpasses the customary 40-hour week for employees. Of the freelancers 38 per cent work more than 61 hours, as did 47 per cent in the manufacturing trades, 61 per cent in the service industries (for instance catering) and 62 per cent in agriculture.

Every third person (36 per cent) said he usually had too little time for his family.

Thirty-four said they occasionally had too little time.

In this respect, the list is topped by the self-employed in the manufacturing trades, construction, and the service industries.

On average, the medium-sized entrepreneurs interviewed had 15.8 days of vacation in 1977. This is less than the vacation time allotted to the majority of employed people — and that with weekly working times of more than 61 hours.

Self-employed in decline

Self employed in 1960 and 1977 (in thousands)

	1960	1977	Change
Agriculture	1127	573	−49%
Trade	783	528	−33%
Industry, building	759	600	−21%
Artisans *	735	506	−31%
Services	658	723	+10%

* Included in the figures for other occupations

Fifty-two per cent have no time for reading, hobbies, sport, further education and socialising. Nor do they have enough time to switch off and recharge their batteries.

At the top of the "lack of time" list are those in service businesses with heavy customer traffic (restaurants, tourism, hairdressing).

It is thus evident that one of the major criteria of self-employment, being master of one's time and able to arrange one's work at will, is wishful thinking.

The most important aspect in the pleasure of being one's own boss is, by consensus, independence.

But 88 per cent list a large number of hindrances in their work in the following order (in some instances one person lists several elements).

- 34 per cent consider themselves hampered by the state and/or the authorities: 12 per cent by fiscal policy, tax burdens and other levies; 6 per cent by social affairs policy (social security, wage policy, helath insurance); 3 per cent by general state interference in business; 3 per cent by specific legislation affecting individual branches of business; 10 per cent by general regimentation by the authorities, planning regulations, environment protection laws and red tape.
- 20 per cent consider themselves hampered by economic conditions: 9 per cent by the general state of the economy; 6 per cent by insufficient orders; 5 per cent by the cost explosion and diminishing profits; 1 per cent by investment difficulties.
- 28 per cent have complaints about work: 12 per cent by being kept from work, lack of leisure, too many working hours for certain parts of the operation; 8 per cent by staff, personnel problems, illness; 7 per cent are forced to work too much and one per cent is hampered by the unions or strikes.
- 33 per cent face other hindrances, especially economic and financial. Among them: 14 per cent competition with major companies; 10 per cent financial burdens; and 9 per cent prices and other obstacles.

Generally, the attitude of the middle-class self-employed is positive: the majority would go into business for themselves again rather than be employed.

Asked whether they would again be self-employed if they had a choice or whether they would prefer work with a different social standing, 70 per cent said they would become self-employed again; 20 per cent would seek another social position, and 10 per cent were undecided.

The reasons for the widespread view that the image of the self-employed has deteriorated can be derived from experience and from other studies.

Many of those questioned might believe that dentists earn too much, and yet they instantly say: "But my dentist is good." Or they might say: "Tradesmen are unrealiable," adding: "But my plumber is very dependable."

This is reminiscent of negative assessments of employers by workers, with the rider: "But my boss is alright."

Klaus Haltener

(Deutsche Zeitung, 27 October 1978)

Fifty per cent of workers in production or service

Kieler Nachrichten

More than 50 per cent of Germany's working population is employed in production: in industry, the trades, agriculture, the construction business, in energy supply and mining.

But only 28 per cent actually produce something: 70 per cent occupy themselves with services in the broadest sense.

Many a guest in the popular TV panel show "What's My Line?" has a hard time deciding whether he produces something or provides a service.

The Federal Statistical Office has gone into the relation between an occupation and the work actually done with startling results. The figures are based on a poll of one per cent of the working population, which was then projected.

- 28.4 per cent of employees produce something, including exploitation or manufacture by hand, by machine, processing, building and assembling, the raising of crops and the preparation of food.
- 21.8 per cent provide "other services," such as cleaning, catering, educating, research, training, nursing, treating, examining, dealing with the law, security, publishing and the arts.
- 12 per cent work in business offices.
- 9.4 per cent are in commerce, inchluding advertising, financing, leasing, insuring, collecting and paying.
- 6.6 per cent are concerned with the transport of goods, sorting of letters and driving vehicles.
- 5.8 per cent do repair work.
- 4.2 per cent are engaged in planning and designing, including land surveying and drafting.
- 3.6 per cent maintain machinery, including the handling and servicing of heating plant.
- 1.5 per cent are engaged in controlling, while management is the main occupation of 5.2 per cent.

There is no information on the remaining 1.6 per cent.

Bernhard Kramer

(Kieler Nachrichten, 27 October 1978)

BUSINESS

Siemens computes odds – and takes on IBM



Computer Goliath IBM, with its world market share of between 60 and 80 per cent, is now facing serious competition for small and medium-sized office computer business, from German, Japanese and American competitors.

Siemens of West Germany has devised a new strategy to increase its market share at the expense of IBM.

Along with the announcement of its four new large computers to improve the 7000 series and selling under the number 7700, Siemens has introduced four central units of the new 7800 system.

These are now being bought from the German company's Japanese partner Fujitsu, but Siemens intends to contribute a 50 per cent share in production under a production exchange agreement.

The new models, developed by Fujitsu in close cooperation with the US Amdahl Corporation, have a high degree of compatibility with IBM computers.

According to Siemens executives Peisel and Poschenrieder, the aim is to replace the IBM units. Siemens wants to offer an interesting alternative to the customers of the leading computer company with its "gigantic market volume in Europe."

The stepped-up involvement in the large computer business is because 53 per cent (in terms of value) of computers in West of Germany fall in the two upper size categories (costing on average between four and eight million deutschemarks).

Siemens' share of installed computers is about DM6 billion or 20 per cent (30 per cent for large units), while IBM still takes about 60 per cent of the German and European market.

In its data processing department, Siemens this year achieved a turnover of DM1.5 billion (up ten per cent) in 1977-78. IBM's global turnover last year was 16 billion dollars.

But Herr Peisel says it will not be easy for Siemens to find the right price strategy for its attack on IBM. On the one hand, it is not Siemens's ambition to keep lowering its prices, while, on the other hand, it must provide a financial incentive for customers now served by IBM.

The enormous price weapons which IBM can bring to bear were demonstrated at the beginning of last year when it came under attack by new competitor Amdahl.

When Amdahl announced its mammoth V/6-II computer, IBM reduced the price of its 370/168 system by a whacking 30 per cent — but only in countries where Amdahl was represented.

At the same time, the giant announced its even higher performance model IBM 3033. But Amdahl countered this by reducing its own prices by 30 per cent and developing a yet more powerful system, dubbed V/7.

It seems that the Californian company is holding its own against IBM. Two major Bavarian banks and the Cologne Ford works have recently installed mammoth new Amdahl computers.

Globally, Amdahl has so far sold 170 universal computers worth 500 million dollars, in some instances at prices 40 per cent lower than those of IBM. It is expected that the number of installations will rise to 205 by the end of the year.

In 1977 turnover was 189 million dollars, and the turnover increase in the first half of 1978 amounted to 66 per cent.

The magic formula for this success is "compatibility," because this enables Amdahl computers to be linked with IBM electronic brains.

Amdahl is thus saving the high development cost for its own software and periphery units, advising its customers to buy from IBM.

One of the decisive reasons for this success is that the founder of the company, Gene Amdahl, is thoroughly familiar with his opponent. Up to 1970 he headed IBM's advanced computer systems department and is generally considered the father of the IBM-360 series, the world's most successful computer system.

He founded his own company in 1970 "because IBM was unwilling to market the computers he considered feasible."

The new company was founded without problems. Financiers were easily found and today's share capital of 115 million dollars is divided between the Japanese computer and electronic manufacturer Fujitsu Ltd, holding about 24 per cent, the Chicago holding company Heizer Corporation (23 per cent), while the Amdahls have an equity of just under four per cent. The rest of the shares are divided among a great many investors and it is estimated that the staff hold about 10 per cent.

Hermann Bössenecker and Peter Roller
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 October 1978)

Chemical industry's poor year

Germany's chemical industry is disappointed by this year's business. Chemical Industry Association president Matthias Seefelder, recently told members: "So far, we have remained at the lower limit of our expectations for 1978."

This applies particularly to earnings, down by about 10 per cent in the first half of this year despite some stabilisation in the second quarter.

For the business year 1978 Herr Seefelder expects a maximum turnover increase equal to last year (two per cent) to about DM88 billion, the first nine months having provided moderate growth of 1.4 per cent.

Following a rather weak beginning of the year, the summer doldrums were not as pronounced as in previous years. However autumn business failed to meet expectations. It is not expected that the trend will change markedly in the rest of the year.

Particularly worrying is the deterioration of prices, above all in the export business, which accounts for 41 per cent of turnover.

Due to exchange rate changes, chemicals' export prices have dropped by about 3.5 per cent since the beginning of the year, says Herr Seefelder.

At home, too, the increasing price advantage offered by foreign competitors, increased still further by world-wide overcapacity, made itself felt.

Across the board, the manufacturers' price index for chemicals fell by 1.6 per cent by August, offsetting quantity increases ("an aspect with which we are not unsatisfied").

The heavy differences according to products which marked last year's development continue. Demand and prices for organic matter, man-made fibres, mass plastics, fertilisers, dyes and other typical mass products remained unsatisfactory. More favourable was development in special products (plastics, raw materials for paint and pigments) and in consumer-oriented areas.

Pharmaceuticals and insecticides showed an upswing.

Herr Seefelder sees new dangers in the future. For one thing, appreciation pressure on the deutschemark and rising costs, at home, reduce competitiveness. Reliability and service are increasingly becoming less important than price.

On the other hand, oil-companies … to the sources and oil-producing countries themselves are increasingly penetrating the processing business, traditional domain of the chemical industry.

The only strategy, Herr Seefelder says, is advance. The industry now employs 546,000 workers (down 0.9 per cent).

What Seefelder means by advance is expenditure for research and development, which again stands at about DM4.5 billion, more than any other country spends.

Generally the chemical industry is not particularly worried about the future as shown by the fact that it again invested DM4.5 billion (as it has done annually since 1974).

This sum could even be higher in 1979. Polls show that one in three companies intends to invest more.

Joachim Weber
(Die Welt, 28 October 1978)

Südfleisch gets its teeth into a Mammoth Mac

DIE ZEIT

A tiny partnership that began exactly seven years ago now shows signs of turning into big business. The Lutz KG, belonging to the cooperative Südvieh/Südfleisch Group, then received an order from the new McDonald subsidiary, the chain's first German hamburger joint, for 200kg of deep-frozen minced hamburger meat.

According to Südfleisch Chairman Klaus Reindl, it was a laughable order in that the group had a turnover of DM600 million at the time.

McDonald has previously approached about ten other meat packers, all of whom cold-shouldered the first branch of a chain that was to become a national haven for teenagers and the young in heart.

Südfleisch actually decided to deliver for "humanitarian reasons" rather than for the sake of business.

But in doing so they showed they had a nose for potential. Today Lutz KG sells an annual DM36 million worth of meat to McDonalds, and in a few years this figure is expected to rise four to five-fold.

The Südfleisch Group is now building Europe's largest hamburger factory (exclusively to supply McDonalds) in Günzburg on the Danube.

Starting in spring 1979, the factory will produce 80,000 pure beef hamburgers an hour. This will take 4,000 Bavarian cows — for taste reasons cows are favoured — every month.

In the final stage, by the end of 1983, a monthly production of 20 million deep-frozen hamburgers is envisaged, requiring 12,000 head of cattle a month, 144,000 a year, providing a reliable market for Bavaria's farmers.

Although Südfleisch experts familiarised themselves with American hamburger technology some time ago, they took the advice of their sole customer and gave the American company Otto and Sons, Chicago, which supplies 4,500 McDonalds eateries in the US, a 50 per cent equity.

The new joint company is registered under the name of L. and O. Lutz and Otto Fleischwarenfabriken GmbH.

Incidentally, should this joint venture work out as well as expected, the Munich executives feel that they might engage in others in the United States.

With its anticipated group turnover of DM2.5 billion this year, Südfleisch considers itself strong enough to campaign overseas.

Considering the expected turnover, the Günzburg investment of DM9.5 million is modest.

Curiously enough, no written contract exists between Lutz and McDonald, cooperation being based solely on good faith, in keeping with both the cattle dealer mentality of the Bavarians and the shirt-sleeve pragmatism of the Americans.

Incidentally, both parties drive a tough bargain over prices.

Says McDonalds manager Walter Rettenwender: "Open price calculation pared down to the bones benefits both parties."

McDonalds can now continue its expansion unhampered. At present there are 80 outlets in Germany (24 of them under a franchise system); another ten are under construction and their number is expected to increase to 500 in the next five years.

Turnover ranges between DM100 and DM150 million a year.

As soon as the EEC's veterinary laws have been rationalised, Günzburg will also supply the McDonald outlets in most other European countries (primarily in Britain, Holland, France and Switzerland).

Hermann Bössenecker
(Die Zeit, 27 October 1978)

INDUSTRY

Steel mills celebrate new upswing in production

The optimists are getting their own back now. For the past three years they lost bets on steel production and paid up in cognac and champagne. Today no-one doubts that Germany's steel mills will produce more than 42 million tons of raw steel this year.

Only very few optimists dared think in these figures at the beginning of the year and everybody was willing to bet against them.

Although raw steel production from January to July exceeded last year's volume by seven per cent, the Steel Industry Association still maintained in the summer that "it will be impossible to sustain this level, which corresponds to a theoretical annual output of 42.6 million tons — 39 million tons in 1977 —, and it can be said with certainty that this figure will not be reached because it is not backed by corresponding demand."

By the end of August the previous year's level was exceeded by 7.8 per cent and by the end of September by 8.6 per cent. Even if output should not rise further, it would still amount to 42.35 million tons this year.

But there is every likelihood of a further increase and an output of 43 million tons is perfectly feasible. Not even the most incorrigible of optimists expected such figures.

But these figures must be put into perspective. Output would still lag ten million tons behind the record year of 1974.

There is thus no reason to be jubilant. But there is also no doubt of an improvement after four years of crisis.

Board chairman of Hoesch Werke AG, Heinz Solbach, puts it bluntly: "Profits have improved considerably."

Throughout the business there is a feeling of relief, though not of satisfaction. No-one quite trusts the sudden improvement.

Herr Solbach therefore qualifies his statement, saying that "consumption increase is still small and we do not expect more than two per cent in 1979."

But Herr Solbach refers to the German market — and the upswing will not come from that quarter. Growth comes from abroad because it is the world steel market that has changed.

Comparing German shipments in the third quarter of 1978 with those of the first two quarters, it becomes obvious that while the domestic market and the European Community bought less in terms of monthly averages, shipments to non-Community countries rose significantly.

The drop in domestic and EEC consumption, attributable largely to the spreading custom of closing down for the summer vacation, is therefore not typical of market trends. On the other hand, the rise in exports is so marked that it can no longer be called accidental.

There is only one explanation for this phenomenon; world steel consumption is rising significantly, with Europe lagging behind the general development.

Thus, for instance, the International Iron and Steel Institute estimates that steel consumption in the free world will rise by 3.5 per cent in 1978.

According to the pundits, the United States is above average with 3.8, as are the "other countries" with 4.8 per cent, among them Japan with 2.8 and the Community with two per cent.

Price developments show that the rejuvenation of the world steel market is anything but a flash in the pan. Despite idle production capacities throughout the world, steel prices have been rising steadily since the beginning of the year, and no end of this trend is in sight.

A ton of construction steel which cost 190 to 200 dollars in October 1977 had risen to between 260 and 275 dollars at the end of last month.

Price increases have been even more pronounced for other types of steel. Sheet metal for the automobile industry — much in demand because of the boom in that sector — rose from 230 to 330 dollars during the same period.

Although joy over this development is marred by the depreciation of the dollar, profits have clearly improved.

Top quality sheet metal is quoted at 350 dollars per ton for delivery in the first quarter of 1979.

Major Soviet orders have greatly boosted demand. The Russians are said to have ordered 250,000 tons from West Germany for delivery in the last quarter of this year. The other EEC countries have similar quantities in their order books.

Not only have steel sales risen worldwide, but prices also are going up and up. The rising price level on the world market has made it easy for EEC steel mills to accept the system of orientation and minimum prices imposed by Brussels Commissioner Count Etienne Davignon.

Even Italy's mini-steel mills — called *Bresciani* because of their concentration around Brescia — no longer have any reason to violate the prescribed minimum prices for construction steel.

The minimum price of DM525 a ton almost equals world market prices, making it easy to accept the Brussels rules of the game, at least temporarily.

The aggressiveness of the *Bresciani*, directed primarily at the southern German market, has been halted somewhat because scrap prices have risen considerably. And cheap scrap is essential for the *Bresciani* for whom it is the only raw material.

While scrap prices were extremely low, these mini-mills had a DM50 cost advantage. But this has melted away due to the rise in raw material prices by close to 25 per cent since January. In the Ruhr region, scrap is now traded at DM205 per ton compared with DM165 at the beginning of the year.

Rising scrap prices have made traditional steel production from ore more attractive again. Thus the Thyssen concern has suddenly joined the market with its construction steel. Despite rumours to the contrary, the Thyssen representative stresses, his company has never discontinued the production of construction steel entirely but has only curtailed it and is now starting to produce larger quantities again.

There is also a pronounced feeling of relief discernible at Bavaria's Klöckner Werke AG which was particularly affected by the Italian price war, and it is said that the company has been out of the red since August. (The Bavarian Klöckner works used to belong to Flick).

But not all German mills can say the same, although the last quarter is likely to bring a change for the better. Shipments over the past three months have already paid higher prices and older loss orders have meanwhile been dispatched and paid for.

This change in profit confronts the business with an unfamiliar situation: the beginning of wage negotiations already presents a pleasing aspect which usually does not occur until a later stage. But even so, Herr Solbach says of the metalworkers demand for five per cent wage increases: "In the present situation such a figure is too high."

And yet, a five per cent demand — usually meaning a settlement for 3.5 per cent — should be rather comforting. But the opposite is true. The restraint in wage demands shows how serious the steelworkers union is about its demand for shorter working hours.

It must be expected that the bargaining will be tough because the upswing is gathering momentum. The steelworkers seem determined not to give an inch on the shorter working hours issue.

As a result, compromise solutions are pondered aloud: the shortening of the working hours could perhaps be restricted to shift workers, making it more tolerable to the employers. It must be remembered that only about 40 per cent of the staff do shift work, thus an hour a week less would be considerably less costly than shorter working hours across the board.

In any event, the metalworkers are questioning the employers' calculations, according to which one hour less work would mean an additional cost of 2.5 per cent.

Although the trade union intends to create new jobs through the reduction of working hours, even the metalworkers do not believe that this would be the result in arithmetical terms. At least where white-collar workers are concerned, shorter working times could be absorbed without additional staff.

Improved sales and higher prices have increased the steel industry's labour problems. The work force can clearly see that the situation is improving because short shift work now affects only three per cent of the staff. Labour now wants to take advantage of improved conditions; the next doldrums are bound to bring about a further reduction in employment because the restructuring process in the steel industry is far from complete.

This process would accelerate as soon as the industry starts making money and deriving courage from profits. It would make up for modernisation investments postponed.

Where things are headed for is demonstrated by a rolling mill now being built by the Japanese. The mill manages without operators, computers having taken over all work previously done by men.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer
(Die Zeit, 27 October 1978)

Anthracite men looking on bright side

There is a chance that conditions will improve for Germany's anthracite mining industry in 1979, says Karlheinz Bund, chairman of the organisation of Germany's anthracite industry.

This year's output will reach the nadir with 83 million tons, although anthracite sales will be 91 million tons because eight million tons were sold from stockpiles. In 1977 sales amounted to 84 million tons.

Commenting on a statement by Professor Heinrich Mandel, board member of RWE, Essen, that coal-operated power stations should only be built to replace obsolete stations, Herr Bund said: "I consider this foolish."

All forecasts, Herr Bund said, operated on the assumption that coal consumption for power plants would rise from 30 million tons in 1978 via 36 million tons in 1985, 40 million tons in 1990 to 65 million tons in the year 2000.

Today's anthracite-based generating capacity of 24,000 megawatt would therefore have to increase by 21,000 megawatt by 2000.

This did not include the replacement of obsolete power stations, Herr Bund said.

As a result, the anthracite industry stood by its offer to the power industry to build new anthracite-based generating capacities of 10,000 megawatt and place them at the disposal of the power industry.

In the long run the coal mining industry considered its largest market for coke, the steel industry, to be sound.

On the world market, too, Herr Bund expects rising demand — not only by American steel mills, which operate close to capacity, but also be American power stations increasingly using coke to generate electricity due to its lower sulphur content, which meets America's anti-pollution laws.

Coke is in relatively short supply in the United States, too, and this is one of the reasons why Germany is selling to the US.

The United States would have to open additional mines, which would be more expensive.

But German iron and steel mills, says Heinz Reintges, board member of the umbrella organisation, are clearly profiting from the dollar depreciation.

In 1974 a ton of coke cost DM157. Now they pay only DM128.

Herr Reintges also dealt with the repeated censure of high subsidies for the anthracite mining industry.

In breaking down the latest official statistics from Bonn, showing an overall subsidy of DM5.2 billion a year, Herr Reintges said that 1.2 billion was part of history and had nothing to do with operational anthracite mines, although this expenditure would continue to rise if German coal mining continued to shrink.

Another DM2 billion came from the "coal penny" which electricity consumers had to pay to support coal-generated electricity.

The federal coal reserves of 10 million tons cost another DM200 million. The remaining DM 1.8 billion was made up of about DM 800 million worth of investment subsidies (essentially to preserve production capacities) and DM1 billion in coke subsidies for the German steel industry.

Hans Baumann
(Die Welt, 27 October 1978)

■ URBAN LIVING

Garbage: learning to handle the dirtiest problem

Garbage disposal carries on, but only just. About 70 per cent of household garbage lands on tips, a quarter in incinerators and a mere four per cent becomes compost.

The least expensive disposal is the municipal tip, costing between DM6 and DM25 per ton. It entails next to no construction, uses little energy and can be manned by a handful of workers.

But every village no longer has its own rubbish tip. The 1972 Refuse Disposal Act lays down detailed instructions, banning unofficial dumps by the roadside or on the edge of the woods.

About 40,000 below-standard dumps have been closed, and there is a trend towards larger tips for larger catchment areas, one or two dumps for 50,000 to 100,000 people.

Incineration is an alternative, and a particularly attractive one in conurbations where there is less and less land available for dumps.

Incinerators are only economic from a certain size. Two out of three municipal incinerators serve areas of at least 300,000 people.

The more packaging material there is in domestic dustbins and refuse containers, the higher its calorific value. The thermal value of garbage nowadays is roughly equivalent to that of untreated brown coal, or lignite.

So, several incinerators use process heat for either heating or power generation. Yet at between DM35 and DM60 per ton, incineration remains the most expensive and sophisticated process.

The third traditional means of garbage disposal is composting, the most satisfactory by far from an ecological viewpoint. But the compost does not sell well.

Two-thirds is sold, manly to vine yards, and the remainder ends up on the rubbish dump. If none is sold, composting costs about DM50 per ton.

Cost comparison shows that composting is about two-and-a-half (and incineration about three-and-a-half) times as expensive as dumping.

The disparity is even greater when it comes to capital investment. An incinerator costs about 12 times the price of a garbage tip.

Unit cost of garbage disposal to the householder depends less on the process. Even if a costly incinerator is used at well below capacity, collection and transport still account for 50 per cent of the cost to the ratepayer.

Assuming the local authority uses a less expensive procedure, collection and transport can account for as much as 80 per cent of the total. So it is hardly surprising that attempts are being made to economise.

More sophisticated dustcarts have been introduced, as have time- and labour-saving tipping devices and larger, easier-to-move bins and containers.

In recent years dustmen have trebled the tonnage they handle every working day, but in the long term there is no way rising wage costs can be contained.

"Charges will have to be increased," says Hans-Joachim Müller of the Municipal Refuse Disposal Association. Garbage disposal is labour-intensive, especially collection and transport.

"But with tonnage steadily increasing we can pride ourselves on having kept charges stable for a while," Herr Müller says.

The only way costs can still be cut to any extent is by using larger bins and containers: 120- and 240-litre containers instead of the old 35- and 50-litre bins.

In a small town of 8,700 people the volume of garbage increased over the years from 15 to 35 tons a day. Costs would have increased by 52 per cent if the refuse disposal department had continued to use the old bins.

But by introducing new, large containers the local authority was able to limit the increase to a mere seven per cent.

The introduction of containers has even been known to bring substantial savings. In Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, a rural area in Upper Bavaria, containers are allocated by area rather than by household.

As a result several households can now make do with one, larger container, bringing a saving of 4,055 dustbins, for each of which a monthly charge was made.

A higher charge is made for larger containers, but on balance costs have been cut so substantially that the saving per head of population in the local authority areas is a steady 65 pfennings per month.

Containers can prove more expensive, however. It depends on the size of the family. In Kirchhundem, Westphalia, annual charges before the changeover to containers were DM61.80 per household for a 35-litre bin, and DM73.20 for a 50-litre bin. As a rule each household made do with a single dustbin.

The new ruling is a flat-rate DM25 a year per person. For a one-person household this means a saving of at least DM36.80, and a family of two should also save either DM11,80 or DM23.20.

But a family of three pays DM1.80 more and a family of four DM26.80 a year more.

Yet the volume of garbage was increasing so fast that the town would soon have been inundated with old-style dustbins, all full to overflowing.

Charges would have had to have gone much higher. But whether it is right to penalise larger families is another matter.

Price comparisons are difficult. Population density varies, as do roads and traffic, the lie of the land and the distance to the nearest tip or incinerator.

A move that cuts costs in one locality may not do so elsewhere. The only one that is sure to stabilise costs, if not more, is the universal introduction of larger garbage containers.

In various permutations the local authorities are responsible for refuse disposal. By the terms of the 1972 Refuse Disposal Act they are no longer allowed to farm out refuse disposal to a private contractor.

But they are allowed to subcontract,

Continued on page 13



Atom exercise

Nuclear alert: a German soldier in full protective dress shows Stuttgart children how an oxygen mask works during the first large-scale nuclear alert held in the Federal Republic. The police, the Bundeswehr and civilian services took part in the exercise, which simulated a breakdown at a nuclear power station. (Photo: Eisenmenger)

Volunteer sniffers get noses to the breeze

Eighty-odd people in various parts of Mannheim, an industrial city at the confluence of Rhine and Neckar, are to sniff the wind three times a day for the next year as part of a city environmental programme.

They are selected volunteers whose contribution towards Mannheim's map of city smells should prove an invaluable environmental aid, since the human nose is still ahead of any olfactory competition.

Starting this month, Mannheim city council is charting city smells with the aid of noses and assorted meteorological equipment to find out where and when smells are an environmental nuisance.

The city hopes the survey will provide detailed information on which to act against atmospheric pollution in the Rhine-Neckar region, and the nose is more than a match for even the most sensitive measuring devices.

The Mannheim consultants who are handling the climate, ecology, atmospheric hygiene and environmental planning survey are reluctant to call the nose report scientific.

Noses are only human. Everyone responds differently to smells, and given the subjective nature of the response the conclusions reached even after a year's nosework cannot be regarded as 100-per-cent accurate.

But environmental engineers in charge of the project aim to make sure results are roughly accurate. Volunteers were only selected after careful vetting.

They must, for instance, stay put virtually all day. So housewives are well suited for this part-time job, as are school caretakers or, say, professional men who practice from their homes.

The selection was also careful to choose a sociological cross-section of people in and around Mannheim.

Volunteers were first interviewed, then tested for their nosework with samples of chemicals emitting smells of varying intensity. Their verdicts gave supervisors some idea of how to assess their reports.

A report form has been printed that looks like a cross between a diary and a timetable. Three times a day noses will be consulted. Does the air smell sweet, or is musty a more appropriate description? Does it smell like rancid butter or like rotten eggs? Is the smell undefinable or is, perhaps, the air clear?

The report form has dotted lines for entries and a pigeonhole for the individual assessment of whether the smell was pleasant, unpleasant or fully obnoxious.

Reports will be compiled all over the city, so a clear picture should emerge of the prevailing smell area by area.

Noses only are not enough, of course, if the conclusions are to lead to effective action. Smells depend very much on the weather and the time of day or year.

A comprehensive meteorological survey will accompany the nosework. Wind, temperature and rainfall will be recorded round the clock at 20 measuring stations around the city. Balloons will probe layers of hot and cold air up above the factory chimneys.

There are, for instance, certain sulphurous aromatic compounds in the air which no-one notices in sunshine and blue skies. But if the weather is warm and wet it is converted into hydrogen sulphide, the chemical that smells of rotten eggs.

The nosemen also plan mobile forays in two test vehicles to add to the impressions submitted by volunteers.

Gas masks and oxygen will be part of their equipment. A periodic whiff of clean air is necessary so as to be able to distinguish between the real thing and the smells they are out to nose down.

When results are evaluated a chart will be compiled indicating what category of smell generally prevails at any specific time and location in Mannheim and environs.

The authorities hope they will then be able to track down the offenders more effectively and work out ways of eliminating or at least reducing smells.

They also hope to chart the relationship between foul smells and the weather. Mannheim will then be able to issue a smell warning in much the same way as other authorities issue smog warnings.

The chart will also be consulted by planners over new housing projects or industrial estates.

Eberhard Krummheuer
(Handelsblatt, 26 October 1978)

■ RESEARCH

Stuttgart lab pioneers new energy sources



The Stuttgart laboratories of the Aerospace Research Institute are pioneering research and development of non-nuclear energy, especially solar and wind power.

Stuttgart has played a crucial role in domestic and foreign projects to harness the sun and wind since the recession in European space research obliged the laboratories to diversify a few years ago.

The Aerospace Research Institute is the country's largest engineering research establishment, with laboratories in Brunswick, Göttingen, Cologne, Munich and Stuttgart.

Research is mainly financed from public funds. A payroll of 3,200, including 1,700 scientists and scientific staff, deals with flight mechanics, aerodynamics, materials and construction techniques, telecommunications and radar, energetics, scientific and technological installations and project supervision.

Energetics has come to the fore since mid-1976. Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff attached special importance to non-nuclear energy research on a recent visit to Stuttgart.

The institute was forced to diversify because aerospace research was being Europeanised and domestic efforts scaled down.

Space euphoria was followed by an abrupt return to earth which, in conjunction with the energy crisis, led to new directions in research, says Dr Sprengel of the energetics division at Stuttgart.

As the spin-off from space research increasingly affects our lives, research engineers and scientists have begun to set aside space targets and concentrate on more immediate needs, such as energy research.

In the wake of the energy crisis, alternative energy from the sun and the wind emerged as promising development sectors. The Aerospace Research Institute is associated with a number of pilot projects and prototypes which should show results before long.

Stuttgart developed the solar unit for an experimental 12-family apartment block in Freiburg in the Black Forest heated and supplied with hot water mainly by solar energy.

The project is financed by the Bonn government and the US Department of Energy, with the institute taking overall responsibility.

The institute is working alongside MAN on a 50-kilowatt solar power station in Southern Spain, the first of its kind to be subsidised by the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology.

If it is a success, West Germany will stand a fair chance of competing in the market for solar power stations in the many countries where sunlight is plentiful.

Potential customers include the oil-exporting countries, with whom a deal linking petroleum and solar engineering development might be concluded.

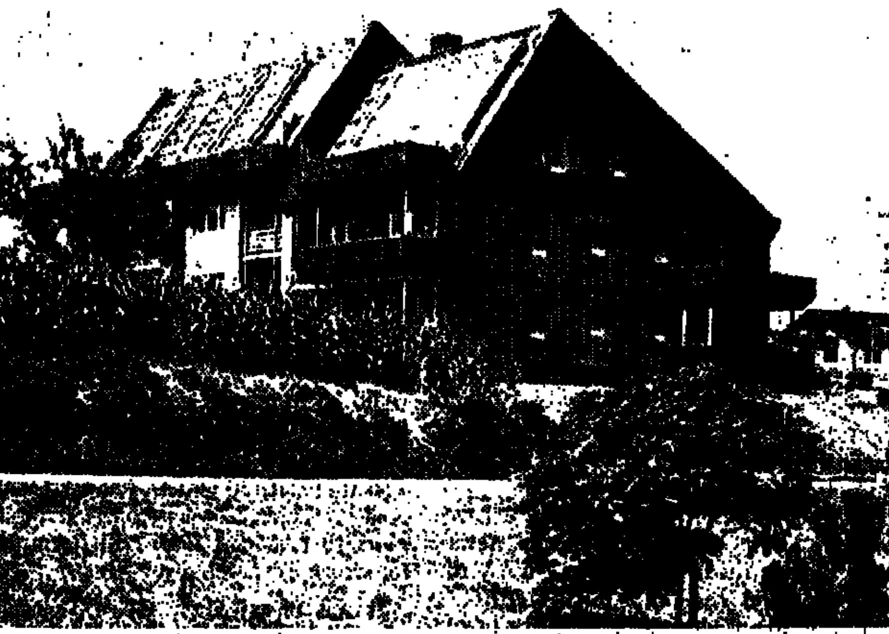
Together with the International Energy Agency, Paris, Stuttgart is working on two different designs for a 2,500-kilowatt solar power station for comparison purposes.

The IEA is in charge of the project. The two power stations are to be built and taken into service in Spain by the end of 1980. The institute is also engaged in joint projects with Mexico and Iran.

Wind energy is another spectacular development sector. Stuttgart is designing the rotor blades for a MAN power windmill to be built in Northern Germany. The tower will be 100 metres high, the blades 100 metres in in diameter.

Nothing comparable exists in the United States, even at the development stage.

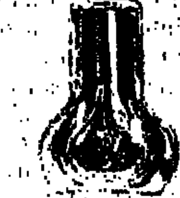
Rüdiger Matt
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 October 1978)



Heat from the sun: this 12-family apartment block in Freiburg in the Black Forest is heated and supplied with hot water mainly by solar energy. The project is financed by the Bonn government and the U.S. Department of Energy. (Photo: Siedlungsgesellschaft Freiburg, I.BR.GmbH)







■ DRAMA

Seminar for screenplay writers points out the pitfalls

Good screenplay writers are rare in German television, even though they are usually far better paid than directors and actors.

There are only about 30 writers whose works are presented regularly on German television. Top of the list is Herbert Reinecker, who has written over 150 episodes of *Derrick*, the *Kommissar* and other detective films.

At the other end of the scale we have Walter Kempowski, who vowed never again after writing the TV screenplay of his own novel *Tadellöser und Wolff.*

If the art of writing screenplays or of finding or writing stories which can be turned into good television material



could be learnt, there ought to be more than the handful of screenplay writers in West Germany.

To find out, 30 writers, journalists and academics were chosen from 300 applicants to take part in the first seminar for screenplay authors.

It was organised by Gyula Trebisch, successful producer of over 100 feature films, boss of Studio Hamburg and Professor at the Hamburg Academy of Music and the Arts.

The seminar lasted a week and most of the big names in the field taught — from Hans Abich (*Liebe 47*) to Bernhard Wicki (*Die Brücke*).

In contrast with modern theatre, in which actors often feel that the public is disturbing their experiments, television films strive to reach as wide an audience as possible. Even Bernhard Wicki, who to the mild protest of the writers said the screenplay author was only a member of the team, said that he accepted the necessity of not producing films which went over the heads of viewers.

This is why, unlike in the original, Herr Ill does not die at the end of his film of Dürrenmatt's *The Visit.* He has to go on living with his guilt, just like his fellow citizens who wanted to kill him without reason. Wicki finds that this version "more vengeful and righter" than the original. Author Dürrenmatt did not agree and the ensuing argument meant the end of the friendship between the two men.

No story and no screenplay ever turns out on film to be quite what the author wrote or intended. Horst Pillau, author of *Das Fenster zum Flur,* still reckons that all one needs to do is to write down what one considers to be right. He spent six months writing and re-writing his last two-hour TV play.

On average, the author gets DM29,000 per TV play and twice that if it is repeated. Programme planners reckon that directors and actors do not earn as much.

This probably does not apply to the cinema. Here the unexpected can sometimes be particularly expensive. For example, if someone writes the soldier's song Lili Marleen into his screenplay, the whole production can become far more expensive — the royalty on this song goes into six figures (in dollars).

The seven film versions of The Tin Drum are going to be expensive enough as it is without Lili Marleen. Film producer Franz Seitz said preparation for filming alone had taken three-and-a-half year.

Here, too, the subject is the real star of the show. Nobody goes to the cinema any more because of the actors in films. Who goes to the cinema? Mainly, it seems, the young: 78 per cent of cinemagoers are between 13 and 27, yet another fact which filmmakers cannot ignore.

The Tin Drum deals with a subject in demand in films and on TV at the moment: the explanation and illumination of the past. This interests and entertains the young, who can re-examine their ideas.

What in general is required of the screenplay writer? Heinz Ungureit, head of the second German TV channel play department, wishes authors would concentrate on stories which can be transformed into pictures — "they can even be offensive, as long as they make peoople think."

Dieter Meichsner, a successful author and head of the North German TV, advises authors to forget the technicalities and to write about the things that move and interest them.

This is what Theodor Fontane did and this is why he is now one of the top TV and film authors — 80 years after his death.

Dr Heinz Rohrbach, until recently director of programmes for West German TV and soon to be head of Bavaria Film, says that despite all the difficulties, two to three authors a year have their work shown on TV.

Horst Pillau, who has long since made the grade, says the work "keeps you young if it doesn't destroy you."

H.-J. Langner

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 27 October 1978)

Youth theatre 'misunderstood' says society

Representatives of about 35 theatres, actors' groups, publishers and associations, attended the first public annual meeting of the German section of the International Association of Children's and Young People's Theatres (Assitej) in Göttingen.

Theatre director and chairman of the association Kathrin Türk told the meeting that children's and young people's theatre in West Germany was still characterised by a large degree of misunderstanding and, in extreme cases, by restrictions and even censorship. This made working in this field difficult.

Göttingen teacher Karlheinz Fleischig said that although school curricula, with various gradations, permitted just about everything which children's and young people's theatres had to offer, the number of restrictive directives and decrees from the ministerial bureaucracies was increasing.

The meeting recalled the so-called *Rote Grütze* directive banning this group from schools in North Rhine-Westphalia and the difficulties the Hanover theatre workshop was having.

Delegates said school and theatre should be separate spheres. Attempts to bring them together in projects such as "Artists and School" had failed, as had the trend to regard children's and young people's theatre as the long arm of the schools.

On the other hand, it was important in terms of equality of opportunity to use the schools as organisers and helpers. The main task of the association would be to step up publicity and intensify internal discussion on how to remove restrictions.

Assitej believes that a debate will have to be conducted about qualitative and technical aspects of children's theatre. The view that "emancipatory theatre is always good even, when it is bad, but that fairy tales on the stage are always bad" had to altered.

Kathrin Türk, who has represented West Germany on the executive since the beginning of the year, announced that her association would use next year's Year of the Child to increase public awareness of the importance of children's and young people's theatre.

Hans-Christian Winters

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 October 1978)

Schools acting project gets good notices

Actress Gisela Monot was tired of wasting her talent in small provincial theatres, so she took up schoolteaching.

With four other actors she teaches secondary modern pupils in the Frankfurt suburb of Rüsselsheim a subject which has no name. It could be called creativity or perhaps "learning social behaviour through play".

For example, the five actors spend 90 minutes enacting life on a sailing boat with the pupils. The actors take the parts of captain, helmsman, cook, first officer and officer's mate and the children are the sailors.

At the captain's orders, the sailors have to mime hoisting the sail, scrubbing the deck, pulling up anchor, casting and bringing in nets. First the professionals mime the actions, then the children imitate them.

Gradually the atmosphere on deck becomes more tense. The sailors want a rest, the captain refuses. The helmsman says they can have a break and then the first officer overrules him.

Aggressions build up, which are finally released in a kind of mutiny in which the captain is stripped of office. The children have to justify doing this and take over the running of the ship themselves. Play and reality have merged.

The children enjoy acting and learning the techniques of mime and also the experience that it is worthwhile to act together against senseless authority. Finally, they realise how difficult it is to take over responsibility and do things for themselves in a hierarchical structure.

The Ship Game is part of an experiment called 'Artists and children' jointly financed by the Bonn government and the Länder. Since February last year teachers and artists have been experimenting with new forms of teaching at 14



secondary modern schools in West Germany.

Recently they discussed the success of the experiment so far with Minister of Education Jürgen Schmide in Bonn, concluding that that the experiment has been worthwhile. The schoolchildren enjoy the teaching very much and the initial scepticism of parents has been overcome.

Sixty artists — actors, painters, musicians and filmmakers — are taking part on two-year contracts, paid on the same scale as captain in the Bundeswehr.

Of course there have been difficulties. Many parents simply could not see the point of their children acting instead of doing arithmetic, reading or writing. Others were disappointed when they found out that their children were not going to put on a full-length play but were just role-playing. Instead of performing the Canterville Ghost, the children were trying to work out a dramatic response to the question: "How should we handle adults?"

One actress said: "What we are interested in is that the children should learn through their acting, not that they should produce a play." Another said the aim of their work was to encourage the initiative and creativity of the children.

Often this was far from easy. They had to show them how to do things without dictating to them or treating them as puppets.

Television is also used in the experiments. In Mainz-Kastel, a television journalist directed a project called Local Television AKK.

The letters stand for the former Mainz suburbs of Amoeneburg, Kastel and Kostheim, officially part of Wiesbaden since the war but which still feel more attached to Mainz.

In the three districts pupils made films about everyday problems. They conducted interviews, covered subjects of local interest, and made film features. As they had no way of broadcasting the programmes, they went into local pubs, played them on video tapes and discussed them with the local people.

Jürgen Schmude was clearly impressed by the experiment, largely the brainchild of his ministry. He realises of course that the scheme could bring difficulties for him because the methods are new and unconventional, but he wants the project to continue.

H. Palmer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 October 1978)

■ THE ARTS

Paul Weber: the eye that knows no compromise

An exhibition of the work of A. Paul Weber, who was 85 on 1 November, is now on at the Rhine Landmuseum in Bonn.

Weber has also much in common with the great German caricaturist George Grosz, born in 1893. Grosz's paintings and drawings of war profiteers, generals, the clergy, the petit and grand bourgeois are an unflattering and uncompromising record of his time.

Weber, unlike Grosz, was no advocate of the class struggle, but like Grosz a satirist, caricaturist and eminently critical artist with a gift for capturing and formulating with seismographic accuracy the mood of the times.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Weber now lives in Grossschretstaken, near Mölln in the former duchy of Lauenburg. He enjoys good health, a fact which such a satirist must find satirical.

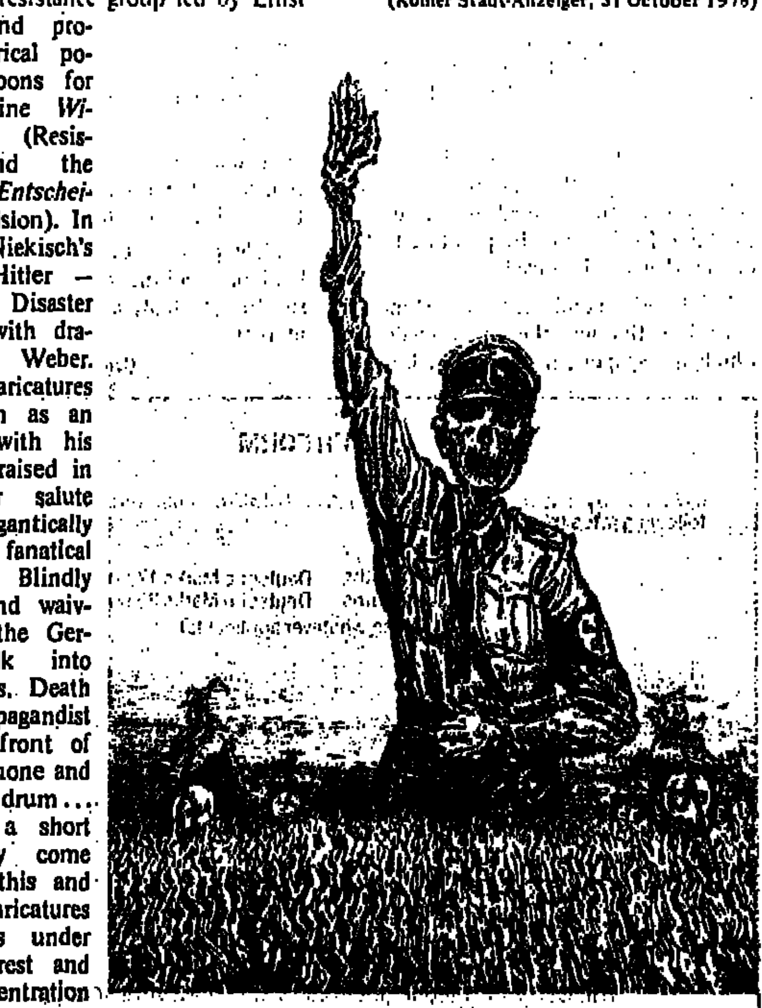
Weber is still unknown to most people and the privileged few know him chiefly as an outspoken critic. It is not accidental that the words satire, caricature and criticism are borrowed foreign words in the German language. They still have not been Germanised, which goes some way to explaining why a man such as Weber has been an outsider in this society all his life.

From outside he was able to see things from a distance and thus to fulfil the true function of the satirist in his works, which are alternately biting, serious, merry and ironical. He exposes human and social weaknesses, attacks and pillories undesirable political developments to make people re-think, or indeed start thinking.

Weber's punchiest but least effective cartoons were those he drew during the years of the Nazi dictatorship. He produced works with the same critical intellect as those of the great French caricaturist, Honoré Daumier. They show an inclination to the surreal, the visionary and the grotesque and at their most extreme are cruel, nightmarish and terrifying, life the work of Alfred Kubin. With apocalyptic force Weber describes the catastrophe of National Socialism.

Death's propaganda: Paul Weber's chilling view of National Socialism's use of the microphone, from *Widerstand,* 1934. (Photos: Katalog)

From 1927 to 1938 he worked as an artist in a resistance group led by Ernst Niekish and produced satirical political cartoons for the magazine *Widerstand* (Resistance) and the weekly *Entscheidung* (Decision). In 1932 Niekisch's brochure Hitler — A German Disaster appeared, with drawings by Weber. The caricatures show death as an SA man with his right arm raised in the Hitler salute towering gigantically over the fanatical masses. Blindly obedient and waiving flags, the Germans walk into mass graves. Death the propagandist stands in front of the microphone and beats the drum ... and after a short pause they come back. For this and other caricatures Weber was under Gestapo arrest and in a concentration camp from 1937 to 1938. The genius of the satitist is that he critically interprets and comments on his age, warning when necessary. It is his tragedy that the majority do not hear him and a small minority would like to silence him.


An SS man salutes those on their way to mass graves. Weber's cover for Ernst Kiekish's pamphlet Hitler — A German Disaster.

It is no wonder that, particularly in his resistance caricatures, Weber's basic tone is pessimistic, reminiscent of Schopenhauer and of Nietzsche's acid contempt for the masses.

In most of his work the masses deludedly follow their seducers and misleader almost always portrayed as grinning Death or satanically disguised fools. The caricaturist, who can see behind the masquerade, finds only dread, the end, the "triumphal procession of immortal stupidity."

When Weber is not dealing with overtly political subjects he depicts human foibles in a thoughful, amusing way. He has produced a good number of symbolic and allegorical cartoons in the tradition of the humorous fable and used animals, asses, foxes and hares, as metaphors for human characteristics.

This idyllic, humorous, wry work is a necessary form of relaxation from more serious critical work. Weber continues to be deeply interested in contemporary problems and his caricatures have a strong effect on those who see them — for example, when he attacks the ideology of progress, when he slams the Economic Wonder, obesity and ignorace, the shallow discussion and marketing of culture, or in his cartoons entitled The Denouncer, the Bug, the Snooper.

Weber's originality does not lie in the subjects he chooses for his cartoons, which are familiar to most, but rather in the way he deals with problems artistically. His caricatures produce a sense of uneasiness and confusion, ensuring that his work will continue to interest even in the age of electronic media.

The exhibition of Weber's work at the Rhine Landmuseum in Bonn lasts until 12 December. This is the first major retrospective of Weber's work from 1930 to 1978 with 260 drawings and lithographs on show.

Werner Strodthoff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 October 1978)

Büchner prize for writer Hermann Lenz

The German Academy of Language and Poetry has awarded this year's Georg Büchner Prize, worth 20,000 deutschemarks, to the writer Hermann Lenz.

The academy's autumn conference was in Bonn instead of Darmstadt this year to coincide with the local exhibition on the history of the Büchner Prize.

The award certificate says that Lenz, born in Stuttgart in 1913, was a perceptive observer, a writer with a memory for apparently trivial and for terrible experiences, a master of the art of precise description with an ethos of total honesty. In his speech writer Rolf Sternberger quoted the maxim Lenz formulated in his great novel *Neue Zeit*: "This author was truly born to see."

Lenz has written poems, stories and novels and his latest novel, *Das Tagebuch vom Leben und Überleben.* (The Diary of Living and Surviving) is to be published this autumn. In his speech of thanks he said he had tried in his work to find something permanent but had never got beyond the stage of seeking.

The academy awarded the Johann Heinrich Merck Prize for literary criticism to the London-based critic and academic Karl Heinz Bohrer, and the Sigmund Freud Prize for scientific writing to drama expert Siegfried Melchinger of Stuttgart. The awards are worth DM10,000 each.

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(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 October 1978)


Jean Amery, explorer of the relationship between knowledge and morality. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Death of Jean Amery

The writer and critic Jean Amery, 65, was found dead in a Salzburg hotel room in the evening of 17 October. He had taken an overdose of tablets, but the note he left gave no hint of the motive for his suicide.

In committing suicide, Amery made use of the privilege of the human being which he referred to in his writings: "He who jumps is not necessarily a victim of madness, is not even in all cases disturbed or deranged. The inclination towards suicide is not a disease from which one must be healed as from measles ... suicide is a privilege of human beings."

During his life Amery had, in his own words, "been in close contact with death in general and suicide in particular." Born Johannes Mayer in Vienna in 1912, Amery, as a Jew, was caught up in the Nazi machinery of annihilation. He only realised he was Jewish when he read the Nuremberg Laws in 1935 and emigrated to Belgium, where he later joined the Belgian resistance.

He was arrested and spent the years 1943–1945 in Auschwitz and Belsen, an experience described in a book called *Jenseits von Schuld und Sühne* (Beyond Guilt and Atonement), subtitled *Bewältigungsversuche eines Überwältigten.* This was not meant as a documentary report but as the "confrontation of Auschwitz with the intellect."

When he was awarded the German Critics' Prize in 1970, the "mutual relations between knowledge and morality" were described as the main themes of his work. He was described as a "militant humanist" when awarded the Hamburg Lessing Prize in 1977. Apart from the book *Lefeu oder der Abbruch,* most of which he inisisted was a "novel-essay", most of Amery's literary work was strictly essaylistic. In *Über das Altern* (On Growing Old), published in 1969, he interpreted the process of ageing as one of "revolt and resignation."

Unmeisterliche Wanderjahre (Unmasterly Years of Wandering) tells of the author's life as that of a socially critical individual in the modern world. His most recent book, published to coincide with the Frankfurt Book Fair, is a study of Charles Bovary, entitled: Charles Bovary, Country Doctor — Portrait of a Simple Man.

Jean Amery was a member of the German Pen Centre, honorary member of the Austrian Pen Club and a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 19 October 1978)

■ HEALTH

Smokers don't respond to threats says expert

Fanatical zeal against smokers can only be harmful, and frightening them with the spectre of cancer only confuses them, making them smoke more. This is the conclusion of Dr J.C. Brengelmann of the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry, Munich, in a study on the success of smoking cures and campaigns against smoking.

Says Dr Brengelmann: "There is certainly no proof that preaching and moralising have ever reduced smoking. On the contrary, it usually achieves exactly the opposite. Even the 'spectre method' is useless."

In an article in the medical magazine *Ärztliche Praxis*, Dr Brengelmann makes it clear that the more a smoker fears the consequences of smoking, the more he will smoke.

In all parts of the world there have been poster campaigns depicting coffins, skeletons, cemetaries and cancer cells in the hope that they would deter people from smoking.

But psychologists have known long that human behaviour does not coincide with popular views.

Psychiatrists have told policymakers engaging in anti-smoking campaigns that, smoking being socially accepted, there are many economic interests tied to it – and have been for centuries. If tobacco consumption were suddenly to fall, many a citizen would be faced with grave social and economic consequences.

According to Dr Brengelmann, behaviour modification and motivation of the individual to use therapeutic measures are more effective than attempts at persuasion.

Education in all its forms must stop conveying fear of the danger involved. Instead, the smoker must be motivated to change his attitude and make use of therapeutic measures.

Dr Brengelmann also deals with the 1964 Terry Report Smoking and Health, published in the United States. Following the report, cigarette consumption fell for only a short time despite intensive measures by several federal authorities.

Says Dr Brengelmann: "Instead of combating cigarette smoking, it would be better to stress the advantages of not smoking, for instance by pointing to the money that can be saved."

Edinburgh conducted a six-month campaign through the mass media in which newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, films, brochures and posters were used to influence smoking habits. But the number of non-smokers remained the same.

Awareness of health risks also failed to increase, as did willingness to give up smoking.

Dr Brengelmann concludes: "It is true that, generally speaking, no-one today puts his head on the block or jeopardises his position only because he is a smoker. But on the other hand it must not be overlooked that a moralising attitude against smokers is a very infortunate side effect on anti-smoking campaigns."

Albert Bechtold

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 October 1978)

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Baldness isn't forever new tests promise

Loss of hair and baldness may soon cease to be irreversible, according to a press release from the German Medical Association. New experiments with medication and methods have given rise to hope.

If the tests continue to be successful, an age-old dream will be closer to realisation.

As far back as 3,000 years ago, bald-headed pharaohs tried in vain to restore their crowning glory through potions. Ever since thousands of quacks have made fortunes out of this hope.

Scientists have meanwhile established that baldness is based on two factors: hereditary elements and adequate male hormone production.

But the widespread view that bald-headed men are particularly masculine is wrong. Telly Savalas, who had his head shaved for the Kojak series, likes the idea. But it has been established that every healthy male has the hormones which, combined with hereditary disposition, can lead to baldness.

The only proven prophylactic method, castration, cannot be used as a cure.

In a search for less drastic methods, science has now arrived at three methods, now being tested.

Pills can reduce hair loss and improve the quaity of the remaining hair. Tests are said to be encouraging.

Scalp islands with hair can be transplanted to bald spots. But this method has not been successful in the long run. After a while even the densest of implanted hair starts thinning.

In cases of "circular baldness" experiments with medication causing a skin eczema which promotes the growth of hair are in progress. Experiment have been promising.

It remains, however, questionable whether bald men really want to have hair. For many people in the limelight the bald pate has become something of a personal trademark. It is hard to imagine Labour Minister Ehrenberg, Finance Minister Matthöfer or the German UN Ambassador von Wechmar with full heads of hair.

Cologne Municipal Director Kurt Rossa (nicknamed "Kojak of the Rhine") maintains that baldness is useful to politicians – they can always be seen in a crowd and are always a "shining" example.

Until the latest series of tests has been completed the safest cure baldness is still the toupé.

Horst Zimmermann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 October 1978)

Psychiatrists find anorexia among boys

Refusing to eat properly with resulting extreme underweight has up to now been considered a female phenomenon. Now child psychiatrists Mathias Martin and Iris Dauner of the Child and Youth Psychiatry Clinic in Marburg repot that many boys suffer from this disorder, which leads to extreme emaciation and sometimes death.

The disorder has similar symptoms in both sexes and occurs primarly during and immediately after puberty.

Apart from the refusal to eat adequately and lack of appetite with attendant loss of weight, sufferers always display typical behaviour in favouring low calory food, letting themselves be begged to eat, hiding food or nibbling clandestinely, followed by vomiting.

Most patients suffer from depression, have difficulties in contacts with other people and are aggressively restless – a phenomenon at odds with their seemingly delicate constitutions.

They frequently suffer from inferiority complexes or belong to particularly anti-sex and excessively religious familes.

The mother's (and, in some instances, the grandmother's) upbringing is frequently over-protective and the children have extremely close ties to her.

There is often also the problem of "not wanting to grow up." in conjunction with the intense desire not to lose the mother as the feeder.

Male patients evidently suffer from a kind of "spoiling neurosis" and the desire to perpetuate a childlike tie with the mother.

(Die Welt, 28 October 1978)

Group therapy helps fight overweight

A team from Hamburg University Clinic have had good results with group therapy to fight obesity, the 15th congress of the German Dietary Society in Berlin has been told.

Professor Kalke said the therapy resulted in steady loss of wieght without relapses.

Patients were cared for jointly by psychologists, internists and dieticians. The behavioural training has in all instances led to lasting changes in eating habits. Traditional dieting methods generally have a success rate of only 30 to 40 per cent.

The congress, which closed with a symposium on vegetable fibres and roughage in human diet, also dealt with the unequal distribution of fat in the human body, which plays an important role in obesity.

Animal experiments have shown that the fat deposited in various parts of the body is not biochemically uniform, as was believed.

This insight into fat metabolism, said congress chairman Professor G. Schlierf of Heidelberg, had a major bearing on the treatment of obesity.

A healthy diet must be rich in roughage to stimulate stomch and intestines and thus prevent weight gains.

Today's diet, with its low quota of roughage, said Professor H. Kasper, Würzburg, brought the danger of consuming a large number of calories with relatively small quantities of food, as opposed to a diet rich in roughage which had a larger volume and gave the feeling of being full. Such a diet should include more whole rye bread, fruit and potatoes

Latest British experiments, said the scientific head of the symposium, Professor H. Rottka, Berlin, showed that developing countries where much fibrous roughage was eaten had almost no cases of diverticulosis, appendicitis and varicose veins.

At the beginning of the century, diverticulosis was still a rarity in Europe. Today it is rising steadily because we only consume 75 per cent of the roughage then eaten.

Hans Lesser

(Der Tagesspiegel, 22 October 1978)

Ice cream not harmful to teeth – study

Despite temperatures of minus 7 to 12 degrees centigrade, ice cream is not harmful to the teeth, says the Institute for Environment Hygiene and Prophylactic Medicine of Erlangen University.

Neither the tooth enamel, interior nor gums are damaged by ice cream, which warms up quickly in the mouth. Tooth temperatures during tests never dropped below 16 degrees.

In fact, ice cream is less harmful than iced drinks because it takes longer to reach the stomach and the intestines, thus having a chance to warm up. Beverages reach the intestines swiftly, causing colds and diarrhea.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 October 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Teachers find children's diets poor in nutrition

Two teachers at a secondary modern school in the Schöneberg district of West Berlin recently found in a poll on the eating habits of 346 of their pupils that just under a fifth did not have breakfast.

The parents of most of these 67 pupils are probably on the way to work when their children get up. Of those who do have breakfast, 150 (47) have alone. Only 77 (or 22 per cent) ate breakfast with their families. Forty-three per cent of pupils said they did not have breakfast regularly.

The majority of pupils (53 per cent) said they had bread or rolls for breakfast. Twenty-nine per cent said they had jam as well, ten per cent said they had cake and 6 per cent even drank soft drinks.

Only about one in four pupils drinks milk in the mornings. Most drink coffee and tea. As for foods rich in vitamins and proteins, 18 per cent of pupils said they had eggs, 16 per cent said they had sausage, 16 per cent drank cocoa and 13 per cent ate cheese.

When I look back on my own schooldays, I remember that most children had sandwiches, rolls or fruit for the morning break. Things are very different today. In the poll just under 40 per cent of the pupils said they did not bring food to school. They are not the only ones who feel hungry before or during school – 134 boys and girls buy food or sweets on the way to school, either because they have not brought enough food from home or because they do not like what they have brought. Just under four per cent said they went out and bought bread, cakes or drinks at a kiosk near the school during the long morning break.

The only pleasing fact is that relatively large number of pupils (94 per cent) bring fruit from home. On the other hand, 72 pupils had soft drink cans in their satchels and 55 per cent had sweets and chocolates. Before and during school pupils prefer foods rich in carbohydrates, with bread, usually dry, in first place (40 per cent), followed by cakes, (21 per cent), cola drinks (20 per cent) and sweets (ten per cent).

The poll shows that pupils eat too little and ought to bring sandwiches or rolls to school. More importantly, it shows that there are not enough vitamins and proteins in the pupils' diets. This lack can in the long run lead to lack of interest, difficulties in concentrating, nervousness, and obesity.

Sadly, these symptoms can increasingly be observed in pupils. One cause for this poor nution is that parents often feel they have done enough by giving their children money to buy food and do not realise that vitamin and protein content, and not just quantity, are the most important factors.

The parents' social situation is also an important factor in whether the children are properly fed. As I have already said, children very often do not have breakfast with their parents. And only 62 per cent of all children said they had lunch with the rest of their families. One hundred and ten pupils said they would make something for themselves to eat if they were hungry.

The conclusion to be reached from all this is that parents must be better informed about the importance of a good and regular nourishment for their children' development.

Schoolchildren must also be taught more about this problem in school – the earlier the better. Finally, it would be a good idea to sell milk and fruit at school during breaks.

Rolf Scherer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 October 1978)

Home influence 'vital for development'

Research by Professor Walter Twellmann and others of Essen University, commissioned by the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Education, shows that the family is more important than educational instutions such as kindergarten, pre-school or primary school for a child's intellectual development.

As early as five there are differences in language, intelligence and responses to other people which can never be made good by teachers.

Professor Twellmann's research shows that children who have been to a kindergarten of pre-school classes are not more successful stayed at home. The research also shows that children of working class parents still have less chances of development than children from other sections of the population.

Professor Twellmann describes as "worrying" the fact that primary school teachers obviously preserve the differences arising from social background. Politicians responsible for education should consider whether it is not more advisable to spend more money on families than on educational institutions.

dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 24 October 1978)

Garbage problem

Continued from page 8

allocating collection and transport to private firms but retaining overall responsibility, and many local authorities are happy to do so.

Private operators run the dustcarts that serve 30 million people, or almost half the population of the Federal Republic of Germany, mainly in smaller towns and villages, communities of up to 30,000.

Subcontracting to private operators is no guarantee that costs will be kept down. In Itzehoe, north of Hamburg, private operators have saved ratepayers DM500,000 a year, according to the Association of Private Refuse Disposal Operators. But this is not always the case.

In nearby Neumünster, quotations from private operators are reported to have been 15 per cent higher than the cost of operating the existing local authority refuse disposal department.

In Kassel, private bidders were a wash-out too. Their quotations for collecting and transporting garbage from four- and seven-cubic-metre containers were 81 per cent higher than the cost of the municipal facility.

Besides, where private operators collect, householders must put out their own bins and containers for emptying. In the city, dustmen usually collect from cellars and back yards.

In built-up areas this is felt to be an essential part of the service even though it evidently increases the wage bill and cost to the ratepayer.

Wilhelm Brause

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 29 October 1978)

Family hinders sex equality survey says

A poll by the audiovisual department of Hildesheim Teachers' Training College commissioned by the magazine *Eltern* (Parents) shows that children are still strongly influenced by traditional views of the role of the sexes.

Despite the efforts of parliament and both sides of industry to achieve equality between the sexes, it is clear that the family is and will in the future probably remain a hindrance to these attempts.

Ten-year-old Peter, one of the 2,439 boys and girls aged between 6 and 16 who took part in the poll, said girls were more suitable for dirty work when asked who should help more with housework, the boys or girls.

The survey shows that girls have to do the housework far more often than the boys. The father of 11-year-old Bastian encourages him in his aversion to housework, saying there are jobs which have been done by women for years, such as "making coffee, whipping cream, making soup, cleaning the windows and cleaning the house."

When the house was being cleaned men should not be there because they only got in the way. Bastian says: "I only do manly things."

Ten-year-old Dieter thinks along the same lines: "Like my sister, I am glad to help my parents but I do not do girls' work. I only do things which require strength and where you have to think."

Fifteen-year-old Maria considers that her parents treat her like a servant. Twelve-year-old Susanne is sad that she has not got a brother. "Boys have got off with doing nothing for centuries. In the old days only the women worked and the men took it easy and often drank. This cannot go on."

Nine-year-old Beate complains about the unfair division of housework between boys and girls: "I have two brothers. They have never done the washing up or made the beds. I have to do everything. I even have to brush the carpet."

Thirteen-year-old Matthias has a good excuse for his failure to do any housework: "Girls are better at housework." Eleven-year-old Jürgen says that when boys grew up to be soldiers they have plenty of toilets to clean out. That is why he das not have to clean thetoilet now.

Eleven-year-old Malte reckons that his sistor is "better suited" for helping around the house than he is. Hartmut explains the situation at home as: "I am better at other things. That is why I hardly ever have to do anything. I do everything wrong."

Hartmut's father has given him similar beliefs. "We men have got two left hands. As I have no sisters, the problem is solved. My mother does these things."

ddp

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 October 1978)

Fathers are television dictators

In a recent survey of the television-watching habits of West German families, lecturers and students at Kiel Teachers' Training College conclude that fathers often behave like dictators when it comes to deciding what programmes are to be watched.

This is often extremely bad for the children and can lead to them becoming what American media researchers have termed "visiots."

Kiel lecturer Gerhild Heuer and her students observed about 200 children watching television with their families and recorded everything happening around and on the box.

The main conclusion was that in most cases (80 to 90 per cent) children watch programmes which their fathers have chosen.

Apart from this, fathers are often fairly indifferent to the kind of programmes their children wath.

Gerhild Heuer told *Die Welt* "Although fathers often say to their children 'come on, to bed now,' they do not usually bother to see that their orders are obeyed." The thriller is so exciting that parents often forget that their children are still watching. It is even worse when children have television sets in their own rooms, which is increasingly the case.

The Kiel researchers found out that most children beween the ages of four and six watch about 50 television programmes a week. Gerhild Heuer says they often suffer from "extreme fear." The reason: nothing is worse for children than the programmes often shown on TV about loneliness, separation and families splitting up.

"We have found out that children prefer stories such as Hansel and Gretel to westerns such as Bonanza. Children get over and forget thrillers and westerns much easier than plays about families dealing with separation from mothers, for example."

Another problem is that of the silent family. The Kiel survey found that in most families not a word is said while watching television. The children consume television programmes they simply cannot cope with. Even after the programmes are over, little is said about what the family has just seen.

"One of the most important conclusions we reach in our survey is that children must learn to live with television," Gerhild Heuer said.

"It would be unrealistic to forbid children to watch television. But watching television. But watching television must not be a purely passive experience. Parents and teachers have to learn a lot more about how to deal with the medium". This includes discussing programmes with children and deciding together what programmes they should watch.

The Kiel educationists suggest that television discs should be introduced to reduce the amount of time children spend watching television. At the beginning of the week parents would discuss their children the number of programmes they wanted to see and then give out these discs. The children would then decide when to use them. Once they ran out of discs, there would be no more television for the rest of the week.

Roland Hauck

(Die Welt, 19 October 1978)

■ WOMEN

Frankfurt woman campaigns for German wives of foreigners

Frankfurter Rundschau

Close to ten per cent of Frankfurt marriages are between German women and non-German men, says a West German woman who has founded a society to protect the interests of German women married to foreigners.

In 1977, 334 German women in Frankfurt married Italians, Austrians or Yugoslavs.

Foreigners and women, particularly those women married to foreigners, are at a disadvantage says Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf of Frankfurt. To help them she founded the *Interessengemeinschaft der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen* (IAF), which now has 40 branches in German cities. The IAF holds its national congress in Frankfurt, on 28 and 29 October.

Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf, 37, knows what she is talking about when criticising the "double discrimination" against women married to foreigners. She is married to a Jordanian and at one point had every reason to fear that she would either be left alone in Germany with her two children or be deported to Jordan with her husband.

It happened in 1972 during the Munich Olympic Games when, following the attack on Israeli athletes, many Arabs were deported from Germany.

Says Almanasreh-Wolf: "The foreign wife of a German is rarely deported even if convicted of a crime." This particular inequity induced her to found the IAF.

Since then she has been bombarding immigration officials, custody courts and social welfare offices with petitions and complaints and her persistence has paid.

For instance, the IAF critises the fact that in the case of bi-national marriages the foreign husband is in some instances still expected to prove his fertility.

This regulation is based on German marriage law dating back to 1900 and stipulating that such a marriage is only valid if concluded according to the laws of both countries.

If, for instance, an Arab marries a German woman and his home country requires proof of fertility, he would have to provide such evidence in Germany as well.

These medical certificates are as a rule no longer asked for, but the IAF points to embarassing interrogations on the subject registered in Frankfurt in 1977.

Further criticism is levelled at the handling of equality because German wives of foreigners are in many cases subject to the laws of the husband's home country.

"Because many regulations are discretionary, the IAF has frequently been able to help," says Frau Almanasreh-Wolf.

"For instance, in dealing with the authorities because they are frequently remiss in providing the public with the necessary information unless some pressure is exerted."

Even a law has been amended on the IAF's initiative: children of bi-national marriages are now no longer solely citizens of the father's country (which effects their residence permits, their university studies and national service) but have dual nationality.

For the 300,000 German wives of foreigners, legal advice is not the only thing that matters: they also need a boost to their self-confidence, both of which IAF provides.

The wives of foreigners and the foreigners themselves are in many instances "only the reservists of business", which imposes a particularly heavy burden on marriages.

These couples also frequently have trouble finding an apartment. There the rule seems to be "the darker the skin, the less acceptable," says Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf.

This propels both husbands and wives into conflicts. Relatives and acquaintances are frequently triumphant, saying: "Didn't I tell you not to get involved with the fellow?"

Landlords and civil servants have been known to come up with such remarks as: "I suppose a German wasn't good enough for you."

Despite all this, German women continue to use their right to freely choose their husbands, marrying foreigners in the following order of popularity: Italians, Americans, Austrians, Yugoslavs, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Greeks and Turks. Some 12,000 children are born to these couples every year.

Says Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf: "We keep saying it's a terrific thing to be married to a foreigner from whom one can learn a great deal and revise one's own views. The marital problems of such couples in no way differ from those of others — at least in the middle class."

This is borne out by statistics: the divorce rate in mixed nationality marriages is not higher.

But the consequences of separation can be dire.

"A child was recently abducted by its father," says Frau Almanasreh-Wolf, "and if I start tackling this matter now, I'll be on the phone for the rest of the day."

In fact, telephoning not only within Germany but abroad as well is one of her most important jobs in coordinating the national work of IAF.

Frau Almanasreh-Wolf does all this from her Frankfurt "office", a broom closet measuring 1.5 by 2 metres in her apartment. Her post amounts to about 40 to 50 letters a week and the files in her office extend from floor to ceiling.

She also receives visitors in her three-room apartment — mostly by appointment, but frequently they pitch up at any time of day or night.

There she also edits the IAF quarterly containing information on aliens legislation, court rulings, reports from other IAF groups and foreign news.

The IAF groups in the cities function well, says Frau Almanasreh-Wolf.

There is, for instance, a woman who looks after the files and writes letters out of idealism and free of charge. Another woman organises the distribution of circulars and other material.

The national IAF archives are kept in Hamburg, while posters and other publicity material are kept in Hesse.

Most of the active women members of IAF work, have children and are "in a socially precarious position."

Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf also has what she terms "a couple of little sidelines": apart from working for an insurance company, an advertising agency, a trade union and being a member of a works council, she has been studying law for the past 18 months ("more or less as a tool for my IAF work").

She has a scholarship contingent on performance and has no choice but to hold the other jobs because her husband is working on his doctoral thesis.

Her work recently earned her international recognition when she was awarded the Elisabeth Norgall Prize by the International Women's Club for her "personal non-partisan initiative in fighting for women's rights."

Frau Almanasreh-Wolf fears that in the long run the IAF will not be able to cope with all the human problems.

Countless families in difficulties are resorting to the organisation.

"When a woman married to a Turk comes to see me, I put her in touch with another woman in the same position and tell her to talk it out with her."

The volume of work is already too much to cope with, but Rosi Almanasreh-Wolf does not want to institutionalise IAF activities and become dependent on outside finance.

"Up to now we have been financing our work through membership fees. Donations or state subsidies would probably mean the end of the project. The key to our success lies in the fact that we make a big noise and work unconventionally."

What the IAF want is financing by the Federal Labour Office and a social worker provided by that office — preferably a woman married to a foreigner. She also would welcome it if German families or older single people would become godfathers to a mixed nationality couple.

This would enable the IAF to provide a list of addresses of unconventional people without prejudices willing to help bi-national families find housing and solve other problems. Many mixed nationality families lose heart in running from official to official trying to settle matters and this is where "godfathers" could be a great help.

Support from Germany would at least give the foreigners fond memories of Germany even should they be deported. Now their main criticism is that "the Germans don't want to have anything to do with them."

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 October 1978)

No lofty attitudes for high-flying women

The 151 members of the Munich-based Association of Women Pilots, consisting of light aircraft and glider pilots and the nation's best women balloonists, are an exception in German aviation, with its 22,000 organised pilots and pronounced male domination.

In 1968, when nine women pilots (among them such flying aces as Elly Beinhorn and Hanna Reitsch) joined forces in Munich, their aim was to promote young blood, says "Mutz" Trense, president of the club.

They wanted to continue the pre-war flying tradition in which women played a major part. The club was also interested in establishing contacts with foreign women pilots.

Says Frau Trense: "That we are not an elitist circle, usually assumed of women pilots, is borne out by our members. Among them are white collar workers, academics, housewives, self-employed, students and five old-age pensioners."

One of the latter decided to take her pilot's licence at the age of 62. Today she is an enthusiastic flyer.

The president rejects the idea that the association was formed merely to counter the overpowering weight of male competition. "We are no women's libbers, but simply want to instil some enthusiasm in women for this lovely sport," says Frau Trense.

Only two or three per cent of those gaining their flying licence every year are women.

dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 29 October 1978)

Lecturer wants union for housewives

It is high time that something was done for the housewife, the Cinderella of the nation, says Kiel lecturer Dr Gerhild Heuer, 41. "For years there has been talk about it, but the time has come to follow this up with action."

Her aim is to establish a housewives' union along the lines of a regular trade union, which would fight for its members with strikes if necessary, collect membership fees and hold rallies.

Dr Heuer, 41, married without children, has been toying with the idea for years, although she has no problems with her household: "My mother lives with us and takes care of much of the work."

Whenever she lectured on child rearing or marriage problems she was approached by women wanting to known who would take up the cudgels on their behalf.

Says Dr Heuer: "The majority of housewives are defenceless. But I have reached the right age and professional success to be taken seriously."

She sees the main objectives of a housewives' union as:

- Counselling on marriage and legal problems.
- Training housewives to deal with authorities and institutions.
- Exerting influence on TV programme-making.
- Boycotting excessively expensive goods.
- Providing information on the legal right of the wife to receive part of the husband's income as pocket money.

"We must, above all, encourage women to be socially up-to-date for the sake of an intact family, even if she does not go to work," says Dr Heuer.

Dr Heuer's idea has met with approval from many including husbands. She hopes to find about 1,000 interested people with whom she would then found her union by Christmas.

Members would pay a minimum monthly fee of DM1.

Barbara Kotte

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 27 October 1978)

■ SPORT

Gienger loses title but gets away with silver

It was silver for gymnast Eberhard Gienger on the horizontal bar at the Strasbourg world championships. He failed by 0.025 points in his bid to defend the title, losing to Shigeru Kasamatsu, 31, of Japan.

But he made up for this near miss by winning a second silver medal on the horse, not his best discipline, as runner-up to Zoltan Magyar of Hungary.

Gienger, 27, always seems to have a smile on his face, but after a world championships that finally assured him of a place in the gymnastics hall of fame he looked a little disappointed.

There they were at the award ceremony, cheered by thousands of spectators: the three best men in the combined exercises, a twelvefold test that is the equivalent of the decathlon in athletics.

But Gienger, only 0.2 points short of the target, was not among them. His ambition had been to be among the top ten; he came fourth.

His was the best performance by a German gymnast since the days of Helmut Bantz. He had outperformed everyone except Andrianov and Dityatin of the Soviet Union and Kenmotsu of Japan.

Yet even though he had come so far he could not help feeling he had fallen short of the ultimate.

Eberhard Gienger is used to standing in the limelight. He works hard to earn his sporting success, and success has been his since long before his first world championship title on the horizontal bar in 1974.

The Japanese, Russians and Americans have all invited him to share their training courses and allowed him to look behind the scenes in their countries in exchange for comparison with his techniques.

His name means something to adjudicators, and a team list that includes Gienger can usually be sure of tenths of a point awarded out of sympathy.

Eastern bloc adjudicators are more willing to accept Eberhard Gienger as a world champion than they are a Japanese gymnast.

They know that his success is based on hard work, continual effort and consultation with coach Vaclav Kubicka. "If you know why you are doing it all, you find the donkey work easier to do," he says.

Pundits have often said that Gienger's style is more Japanese than that of the Japanese themselves. He says it took a spell in Japan for him to develop the right attitude to his sport.

In Japan he learnt not to fight the equipment but to work with it, to regard it almost as a partner. This outlook, he feels, is the secret of his success.

He tried to play down a sonny boy reputation, only to emerge as a smart career athlete predestined for representative duties.

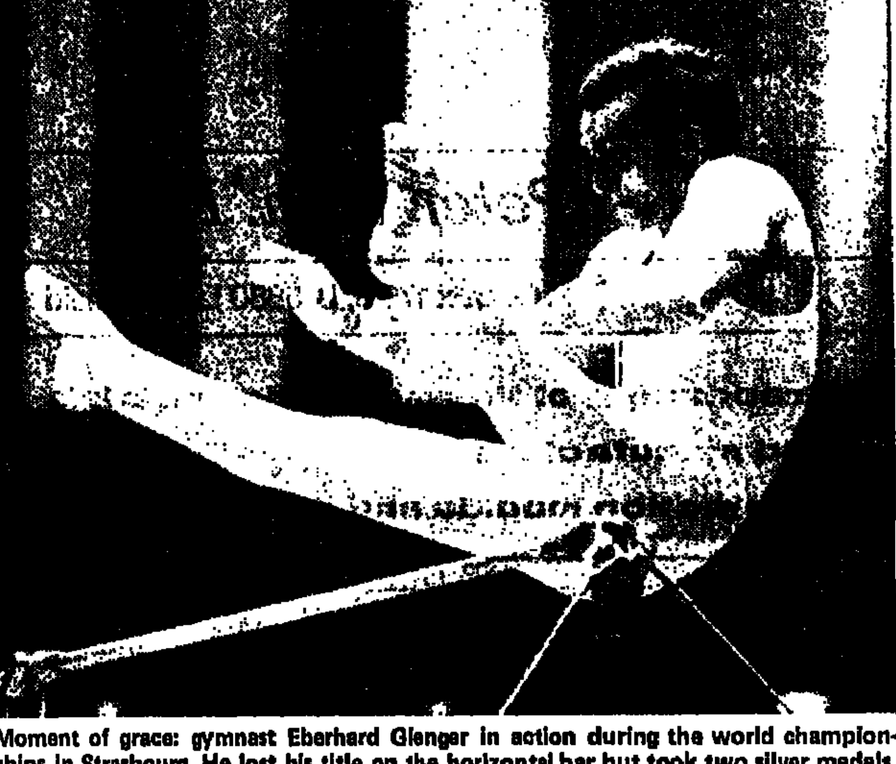
Since the publication of his book *Abenteuer der Turnkunst* (The Adventure of Gymnastics), which he modestly describes as little more than a school essay on his career, but with first-rate illustrations, his successes have tended to double as advertising spots.

Top-flight gymnasts are shamateurs, as he is the first to admit. But criticism is more readily accepted from someone who is an acknowledged authority, and Gienger's sporting career is by no means over.

He definitely intends to carry on until the Moscow Olympics and will continue to be a favourite at championships and a crowd-puller at gymnastics displays.

He may then even try his hand at circus acrobatics, which has always been his ambition. Eberhard Gienger in the Big Top is not the man to need a safety net either.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 October 1978)



Moment of grace: gymnast Eberhard Gienger in action during the world championships in Strasbourg. He lost his title on the horizontal bar but took two silver medals. (Photo: Sven Simon)

250 people a year die in sports accidents – study

Hannoversche Allgemeine

About 250 people a year die as a result of sports accidents, which is one in 40,000 of the ten million playing members of sports clubs affiliated to the West German Sports League.

This figure was compiled by Dr Munschek of a medical research laboratory in Hof, Bavaria, and included in a paper given to the annual congress of specialists in sports medicine at Bad Nauheim.

He evaluated 110 deaths, of which 77.3 per cent were due to organic ailments and the rest to injuries.

Organic ailments predominated among footballers, followed at some distance by amateur athletics, handball players, gymnasts, equestrians and football players.

Of the 25 deaths due to injuries, soccer again account for the majority: 16. Not surprisingly, of course, since clubs affiliated to the West German FA have 3,500,000 members.

Fifteen of the 25, again a clear majority, were head injuries or brain damage.

In seven out of ten cases sports deaths are due to inadequate preparation and control of the body, Dr Munschek says. Seventeen per cent are attributable to resumption of sporting activities too soon after an illness or accident.

There is a greater accident risk than average in sports that entail body contact, and in sports such as skiing, gymnastics and equestrianism which require virtually perfect technique.

Cologne specialist Professor Wildor Hollmann was surprised by accusations that he and Professor Armin Klümper of Freiburg were the stab-in-the-back boys of West German sports medicine.

The accusation came from Professor Herbert Reindell, also of Freiburg, president of the Sports Medicine Association, at a 28 October meeting of the National Olympic Committee in Baden-Baden.

He said comments by Hollmann and Klümper about shortcomings in the relationship between top-flight sport and sports medicine were not true of 99.9 per cent of the profession.

With two years to go to Moscow, specialists in sports medicine still fully back the ban on proscribed drugs proclaimed last year by the Sports League and the NOC.

Sports Medicine: Tasks and Significance for People Today was the topic of this year's Bad Nauheim conference at which 112 papers were delivered.

But one shortcoming will remain. There is no such thing as a specifically qualified specialist in sports medicine. GPs who specialise in the field will continue to earn a meagre living because there are no regulations governing their field.

dpa/sid

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 October 1978)

Three gymnasts for World Cup meeting

West German gymnasts are back among the best: Eberhard Gienger from Künzelsau, Volker Rohrwick from Oppau and, as a substitute, Edgar Jorek from Wolfsburg have been invited by the international federation to compete in the World Cup tournament in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 8-10 December.

This accolade makes them three of the best. Only 18 gymnasts have been invited. They owe their nomination to the West German men's showing at the Strasbourg world championships.

"Team performance improved tremendously," says former national champion Wolfgang Thüne. "They followed the trend towards difficult moves without going in for an all-risk routine. What they banked on was perfection."

In the men's finals the West German team ranked fifth. Three men, Gienger (fourth), Rohrwick (17th) and Jorek (27th), competed in the combined exercises. Gienger and Jorek reached the finals in their individual disciplines.

This achievement is a credit to chief coach Wolfgang Dreyer, 36, who in the past year has coordinated training at Frankfurt, Oppau and Saarbrücken.

Vaclav Kubicka, Philipp Fürst and Paul Rupp were in charge of training at these three centres, but chief coach Dreyer coordinated preparations for Strasbourg.

At Frankfurt he is lucky in having ace trainer Vaclav Kubicka, 39, at the helm. The Czech coach is particularly useful in two respects: he is an acknowledged expert at evaluating videotapes and scientific surveys for use in training, and at international tournaments he is renowned for his intuition and flair.

But even he was surprised at Strasbourg. "My God," he said, "the boys really are cool, calm and collected!"

The men may be improving but the women are not. The women's team came ninth, which could almost be rated a success given the constant squabbles between national and individual coaches.

Jutta Oltersdorf, 22, a former member of the national team, has been chief coach since the beginning of August. "The girls did their best at Strasbourg," she says.

Reinhard Hornig, 32, in charge of women's training at Oppau, has more to say: "So far the ideas of individual trainers have proved irreconcilable with those of the chief coach, and girls who are keen to make the grade as gymnasts have suffered as a result."

Had coordination and communication been feasible in women's gymnastics, preparations for the world championships would not have taken a mere 37 days; they would have started immediately after the Montreal Olympics.

"Chief coach Tosca-Goswina Dorau was not up to the job," says Wolfgang Thüne. "Otherwise she would hardly have misinterpreted the world championship set piece requirements and drawn up a completely unsuitable training schedule."

Yet Petra Kurbjuweit, Anette Michler and Anette Toifl scored 9.65 points on the bars. "More than their performances were worth," says one women's official, who fears that on the strength of this rating women's coaching will continue as before instead of aiming at a systematic build-up.

Klaus Blume

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